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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

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COMING NEXT WEEK:

FLUKE FISHING

About the Cover—

The mackerel are coming, the mackerel are coming! The end of April sees good fishing for a number of species including flounder, mackerel, early fluke, a few weaks, striped bass, cod and pollack. Why not get out this weekend and join the action?

Photo by Dick Mermon

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From the Editor's Head

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Time to Participate

The passage of 200-Mile Limit legislation has had an impact upon recreational fishing far beyond the direct management of fisheries within the 200-mile fishing jurisdictional zone.

Why has this occurred? The reasons for the far-reaching impact of this legislation cannot be explained simply "in twenty-five words or less," as is the popular regulation for cereal contests. However, these reasons can probably be distilled to several key factors. Perhaps the most important of these are the restraints projected to the states which, in their rawest form, charges that the states must help implement the management plans or the Federal Government will do it for them. Furthermore, the states will have to eventually develop management approaches for species which are found primarily within three miles of shore.

The first fishery beneficiary of this implementation will be the striped bass. The states have been fumbling with various attempts to manage the striped bass for years. For the most part, with a few exceptions, these attempts have satisfied neither the sportsmen nor the commercial fishermen. Thus, the regulations for the harvest of striped bass differ drastically from state to state. A coordinated coastal approach was lacking. However, a Coastal States Management Plan for the species has already begun and it is projected that the plan will be completed within five to eight years.

Sportsmen in New York State have been struggling for the successful passage of legislation that would add criteria of management to the existing sixteen-inch minimum length restriction in New York State. As Monday morning quarterbacks, it might be correct to conclude that these sportsmen and conservationists had great foresight. However, it may also be true that the current depressed state of the bass fishery is only a momentary and natural setback in the inexorable cycle of life in the sea. No one can know for sure now—but time will tell.

Clearly, the striped bass is in trouble today! That several excellent year classes in the years ahead might turn things around one hundred and eighty degrees should not be a possibility that would deter us from the goal of coastal management of the species. That in the past, different people have disagreed with how bass should be managed should also not deter us from our goal or from active participation. If we have concern for this problem, our primary concern should be the survival of the species, and although our angling pleasure is important, it should remain a secondary concern to the primary one, which is the proper management of the species so that it can continue to thrive. Our angling pleasure will inevitably increase if we are successful in assisting the species to prosper.

Fortunately, the mechanism for development of the Coastal State Management Plan allows ample time and pathways for input from sportsmen, as well as all other interested people. We wish to help. If any of our readers believe that they have thoughts, ideas, and opinions on how the striped bass could best be managed, we ask them to send them to:

N.Y. Delegation to Coastal
States Management Plan for
Striped Bass
c/o The Long Island Fisherman
P. O. Box 1994
Sag Harbor, New York 11963

We will collect and forward these to Mr. Fred Schwab, who heads this delegation.

William J. Miller

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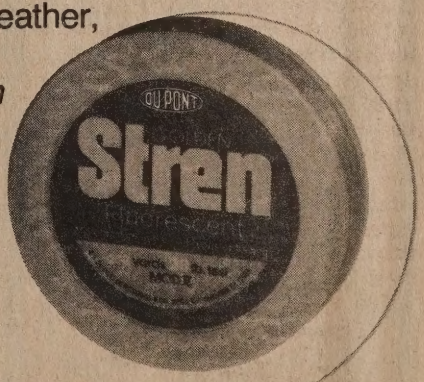

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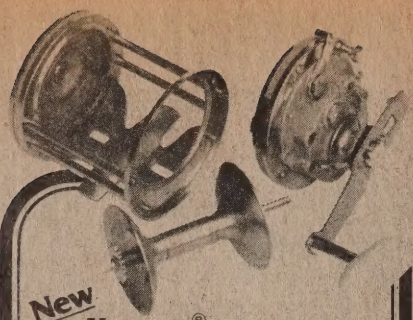

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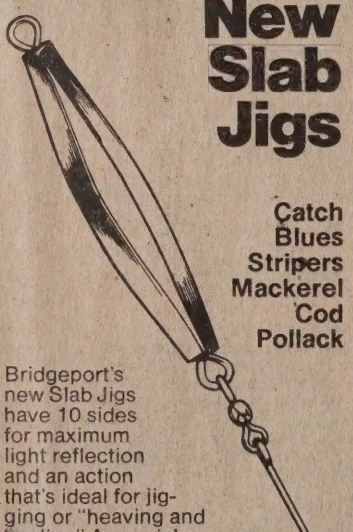

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CHUM LINES

GOV. RESPONDS TO PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Governor Carey has asked me to respond to your recent letter regarding the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fisheries Council.

I found your comments about the recreational fishermen thought provoking and would like to thank you for your recommendation of Scott J. Simons. Please be assured that as candidates are reviewed for this Council, your suggestion that recreational fishermen be represented will be given very serious consideration. Sincerely, **Judith Hope, Appointments Officer to Governor Carey.**

M.E.C.L.I. SUPPORTS SCOTT'S NOMINATION

Dear Gov. Carey:

The Marine Environmental Council of Long Island recommends that you submit the name of Scott Simons for nomination to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fisheries Council. We believe Scott is qualified to hold a seat on this very important committee.

Please consider our request in your efforts to find a person capable to fill the vacancy that will occur in August. **Geo. H. Wilde, Bd. Chairman, Marine Environmental Council of Long Island.**

THE MYTH OF 2 LB. FLOUNDER?

Since I have been fishing for over 20 years, and since I have been reading your publication for over 10 years, I feel that I am qualified to speak my mind.

I am tired of reading the exaggerated claims made by many of the party boats and fishing stations in your publication. In your Mar. 30 issue, according to the reports, everybody is catching flounders ranging from one to two pounds. On an educated guess, I would say the average flounder fisherman hasn't seen more than a handful of two pound flounders in his lifetime.

Even though I can't blame you outright due to your position as a receiver of information, I think it would be a good idea to actually spot-check some of these reporting areas and tell it like it really is.

As for the photo on page 36 of your March 30 issue, a close look at some of those 290 "1 to 2 lb." flounders shows that this should have read ¼ and ½ lb. flounders.

Since I fish Moriches Bay, on average, about 25 times a year, I feel I know this bay quite well. Over a long period of time, I've caught only about 30 flounders that were an honest 2 lbs. or better. The honest flounder fisherman knows that the average fish only weighs about 3/4 pounds.

So, see what you can do to straighten out these exaggerated claims. Yours in good fishing, **Dennis Peppel, Woodhaven, N.Y.**

You are right, of course, but you are also wrong. By that we mean that you are correct when you say that many flounder fishermen exaggerate the size and quality of their catch. The old saying goes, "All fishermen are liars except you and me, and I'm not too sure about you." Few flounder fishermen put their fish on the scale and after catching half-pound fish, a one-and-a-half pounder looks like a monster. The size of the flounders that you catch is affected by how you fish and where you fish. True, only a small percentage of the flounders taken in most areas of Great South Bay, for example, are two pounds or more; yet Doc Grell always manages to find his share of these fish in that bay and invariably he finds a few three pounders, too! The average size of Peconic Bay fish is probably about a pound, and in the western Sound, it may be as low as a half-pound, but at certain spots around Montauk, the average may be significantly higher. We do try to spot-check reports and our readers help us a lot by letting us know when an advertiser or subscriber is exaggerating. We try to correct these excesses, but it's hard to change the basic nature of fishermen.

MOST WANTED!

Will J. Furst; L. Ammirati, and Wilson Chin please contact the L.I.F. Office—516-725-4200. We need your addresses!

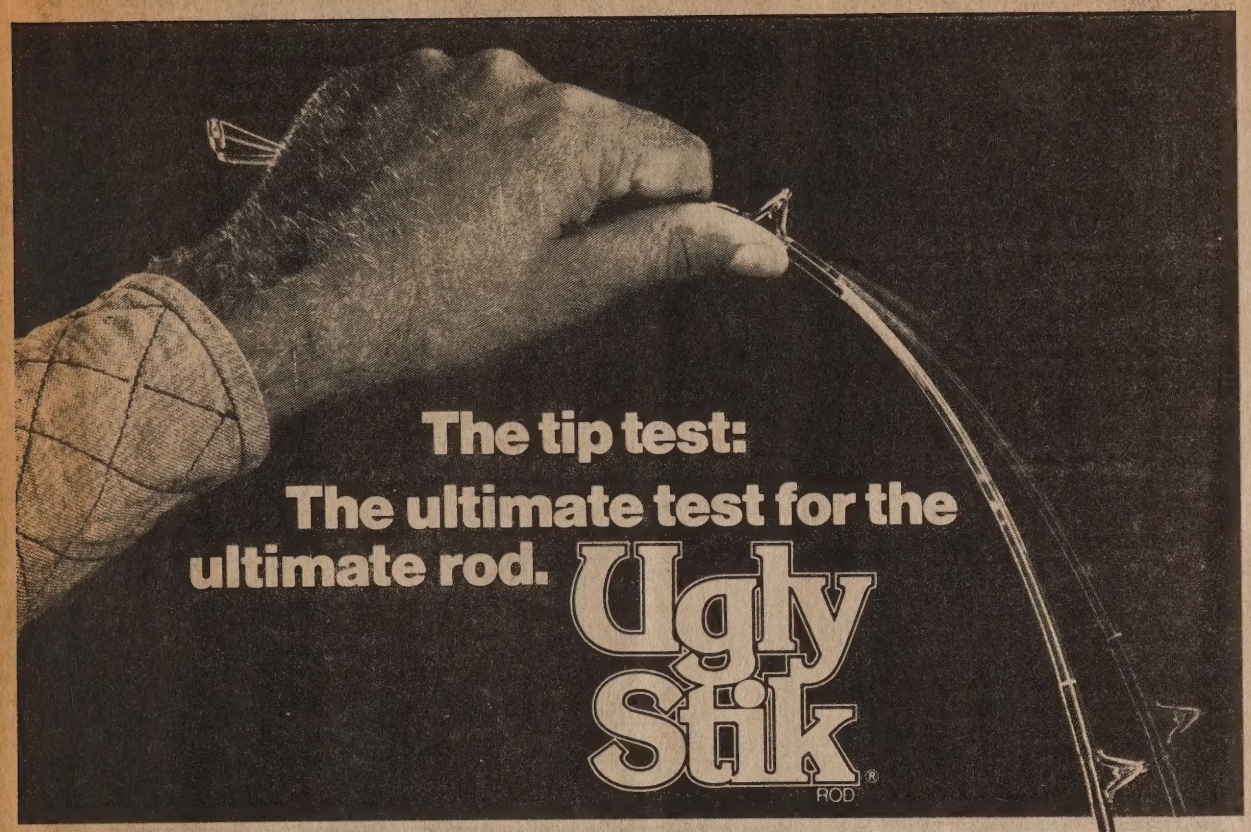
CLUB NEWS

BALDWIN ROD & GUN CLUB NEWS

The Baldwin Rod & Gun Club will hold its regular May meeting at the Baldwin American Legion Hall, South Grand Ave., at Church Street, between Merrick Road and Atlantic Avenues, in Baldwin, N.Y., on May 16, 1978 at 8 PM.

At this meeting, we are fortunate to have, as a guest speaker, Mr. Chester Zawacki of the NYS DEC, who will address the Club on the much talked about saltwater fishing license.

Guests are always welcome to attend our meetings which fall on the



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ATLANTIC ANGLERS BIG BROTHER/SISTER FISHING TRIP

On May 13, 1978, the Atlantic Anglers of Massapequa, will sponsor a fishing trip on the SEA HORSE out of Lindenhurst, for boys and girls from Big Brothers and Sisters of Nassau County, who are still unmatched. Members of the Club will be matched up with a child for the day. The boat will leave the dock at 3 PM and return about 7 PM.

If anyone is interested in trying their hand at being a big brother or sister for the day, please notify Victor Consiglio (212-MU 5-9799) of the Atlantic Anglers, or Larry Murray of Big Brothers and Sisters of Nassau County (516-785-6660).

Price for the trip is $5 per head.

SO. SHORE MARLIN & TUNA CLUB'S 4TH ANNUAL WEAKFISH TOURNY

On Saturday, May 13, the South Shore Marlin and Tuna Club will hold its fourth annual L.I. Weakfish Tournament. First prize for the largest weakfish will be $500 and runner-up prizes of $10 for the largest weakfish weighed in at each of the official weigh-in stations will be awarded. Entry fee of $3 per angler is required, tickets and additional information can be obtained at:

C. Altenkirch, Hampton Bays.
American Sportsman, Sayville.
Augie's, Babylon.
Babylon Sports Center, Babylon.
B&B Tackle, Center Moriches.
Capitol Fishing Tackle, N.Y., N.Y.
Charlie's Bait & Tackle, Lindenhurst.
Duke's Tackle Shop, Lindenhurst.
Frank & Dick's, State Boat Channel.
Great Outdoors, Patchogue.
Hoppi's, Patchogue.
Islip Marine, Islip.
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Lassens Hi-Way Fishing Sta., E. Moriches.
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So. Bay Fishing, W. Sayville.
Starfish Marine, E. Islip.
State Channel Marina, State Boat Channel.
The Store, Oak Beach.
White Water Marine, Oakdale.
Young's Fishing Sta., Sayville.

Or by calling Vic Rivas at (516) 541-0066. The tournament is open to all age's and will begin at 4 AM to 6 PM in any L.I. waters.

WHEN SURF FISHERMEN CLIMB INTO BOATS?

Watching members of the High Hill Striper Club bounce around in boats is a rare, but not totally unique sight, since we are members of a surf fishing club. However, each spring we initiate the new season with a flounder contest and this year on April 22, the Club fished out of Captain Marty's Fishing Station in New Suffolk. Although the morning weather reminded one more of "Victory at Sea," things calmed down beautifully about noon and a great day was enjoyed by all. Jim Juliano took the contest with a beautiful three pound flounder. Bill Muller was high hook with twenty-five fish and other large flounders were taken by Claude Sommerlatte, Frank Arendt, and Paul Reynolds. The High Hill Striper Club is looking for a few surf fishermen to fill out its roster. You need not be an expert; all we ask is that you love surf fishing and are willing to contribute and participate in the club's activities. If you are interested, we meet in Bellmore on the third Wednesday of each month. For more information, call Bill Muller after 6 PM, at 667-5344.

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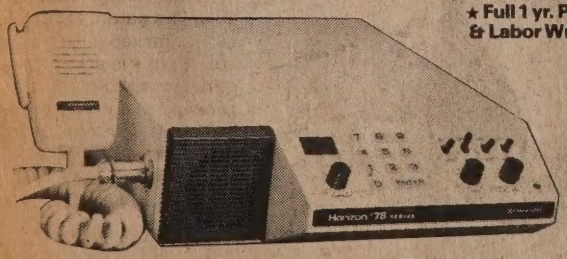

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FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

RECENT RESEARCH ON SCHOOLING—*Part One*
Some Implications for Fishermen

THE TRADITIONAL POINT OF VIEW! For hundreds of years people have watched the behavior of fishes in schools and have reached the conclusion that fish school for the purposes of protection and feeding. Recent findings do not contradict this point of view, but they do show us that our perceptions and understandings were too simplistic. We have looked at schools of fish from overhead and we have marveled at the ease with which they move in coordinated harmony in response to the stimuli of the environment. Schooling fishes are truly part of a classless organization in which no individual dominates or has greater or lesser influence than any other. This may not be true in all cases, since some evidence suggests that within some schools there does exist a hierarchy, but this is the exception rather than the rule.

WHAT IS A SCHOOL OF FISH? One researcher (Breder) defined a school of fish as a group that maintains an organization that is characterized by a formal and often equal spacing of individuals. Other scientists refer to a school as a group of fish that are mutually attracted to one another. Fishermen define a school as a group of fish of the same species swimming together. These individuals are usually very similar in size; but it might surprise we fishermen to learn that only about twenty-five percent of the species of fishes in the world engage in schooling behavior throughout their lives, and that about fifty percent of the species school as juveniles. This statistic surprised me, because since I have lived my entire life on Long Island and have had contact only with the species of the shallows, I made the incorrect assumption, many years ago as a kid, that most species of fish school. This impression is reinforced by cartoon characterizations and other popular treatments of fishing and fish behavior.

PHASES OF SCHOOL BEHAVIOR. Different species have different schooling patterns. Some fish are obliged by their evolutionary adaptation to a state of constant, very well organized school behavior. Others are loosely organized most of the time, but become strictly organized in response to danger or other life sustaining criteria. Scientists call the first state or phase in which the fish are loosely organized, as **non-polarized** and the well organized, exactly defined state or phase as **polarized**. There does not appear to be any relationship between the type of schooling behavior and the level of evolutionary development; i.e., a recently evolved advanced species may have either polarized or non-polarized schooling behavior and that the type of schools formed are more likely to reflect the size and ecological niche of the species. Hence, many species of small bait fish display a continuous close-knit behavior in massive schools, while the billfish of the open ocean are more likely to hunt as solitary individuals or in pairs.

ON WHAT BASIS DO FISH SCHOOL? One of the most important of these is vision. Experiments have been performed in which members of a school of fish were blinded. Inevitably, this resulted in a pronounced disruption of the schooling behavior. There is importance for the fishermen here. Many species do not form well organized schools at night because without the available light for vision to be effective, schooling organization is difficult, if not impossible to maintain. However, it should be pointed out that because the eyes of fish have great light gathering capacity, even the slightest amount of light is sufficient for them to sustain the integrity of the school. Nonetheless, there must be many nights when the predator has an advantage by hunting prey at night instead of the day. This may explain, at least in some small part, why certain species are more readily taken at night. The presence of a full or bright moon is also important in this discussion since the moonlight will provide more than sufficient light for successful schooling. Attacking well organized schools of prey may present some problems for even the most efficient predator as we will see later, but where bait fish disperse or hide during the nighttime hours, the presence of moonlight which keeps the schools swimming may be a distinct advantage for the predator. Such appears to be the case with sand eels.

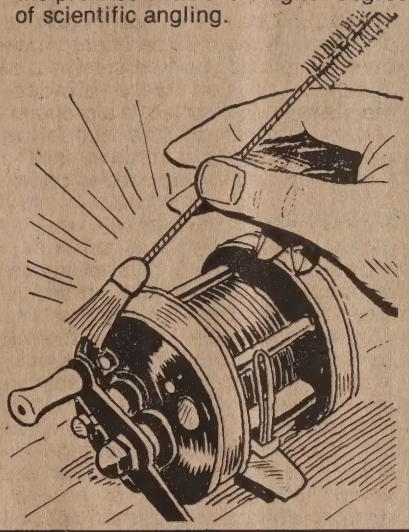
THE ROLE OF SMELL. It has been well known for many years that fish—or at least many species of fish—possess a very acute sense of smell. Salmon, for example, migrate thousands of miles to the stream where they were hatched on the strength of the faintest trace of an odor of the mother stream mixed with the endless gallons of Pacific sea water. Many researchers (Hemmings, Pfeiffer, Rosenblatt and Losey, Thines and Vandenbussche) have investigated the role of smell in the schooling behavior. The results of most, if not all studies, demonstrate that individuals can recognize members of the same or different species and based on this ability change their spatial orientation and their swimming rates. However, the exact role of smell remains imperfectly explained. Recently, there has been an interest among fishermen in pheromones, or fish smell, that some believe can b used as a lure to attract predators t the hook. That pheromones migh actually be used successfully b recreational anglers, demonstrate the significance of the sense of sme to fishes.

ROLE OF SOUND. Fishermen i the Long Island area are well awar that some fish make sounds. Th weakfish, for example, uses soun during the spawning. Apparently this is so since only the males hav the ability to make the sounds According to recent investigations sound does not replace the impor tance of visual senses, but may ac over long distance to help maintai the integrity of the school and/or t attract makes and females in som species. The implication for th fishermen may be that the creation c sound disturbances may be a success ful way to attract some species to th vicinity of the fishermen. This ha already been shown to be true Offshore fishermen have used thi technique with great effectiveness fo many years. The noise generated b boat engines and the sound distur bances created by troller teasers tha thrash through the water are used t bring billfish and tuna to the surfac from great depths. That this migh have some usefulness on the inshor scene is an intriguing possibility.

THE LATERAL LINE! We are a aware of what the lateral line is. I may be more pronounced on a specie like the cod and difficult to notice on weakfish, but all modern fish have lateral line that runs from behind th gill covers to the base of the tail Interestingly, the lateral line i similar in many ways to the vertebrat inner ear. Researchers have foun that the receptor sensory cells ar sensitive to low frequency vibrations Scientists believe that the activity o individuals in a school set up lo frequency vibrations and that a given individual can sense when neighbor ing fish change their position relativ to the others. Experiments hav shown that when the lateral line i severed, schooling behavior stops The importance of sight has alread been discussed. However, we shoul remind ourselves that experiment showed that blinded fish were disrup ted but **not** that schooling stoppe completely. A blinded fish with it lateral line system intact was able t rejoin the school after sometime an although its schooling behavior wa disturbed, it stayed with the school When the lateral line was also cut schooling behavior stopped. Now sighted fish with functional latera line systems were also able to school Furthermore, fish may use lateral lin input to help with other survival

mechanisms. Therefore, the sharpies digest may read "proceed quietly," and perhaps with good reason. The low frequency sounds created when an object "thuds" against the gunwale of a boat or the "clump" of a heavy walking surf fisherman may be picked up by feeding gamesters and cause their feeding behavior to become disrupted.

WHERE ARE WE NOW? If researchers are correct, some fish may be successfully attracted by the use of sound and light displays as well as fish smells, while others may be driven away. The recreational fisherman would like to know which are attracted and which are spooked. Thus, it remains for us to discover these relationships. These may be standard operating procedure for the fishermen in the year 2000, but for now they remain interesting and appealing possibilities. Nonetheless, some have uncovered a direct relationship between fish behavior and fish sensory response and are using it successfully, such as offshore big game fishermen. Others tried and believed that they, too, knew about a direct relationship. Some of them, at least, used the technique with success. Al Reinfelder, for example, was know to beat the water at times with the tip of his rod. When asked to explain this seemingly strange and unusual behavior, he offered that the surface disturbance often stimulated bass into a feeding spree. Witnesses relate that on many occasions the strategy paid off and the action began. Certain lure companies have already experimented with scented products. These early attempts may be very primitive compared to the methods that may be in common use several decades from now, but many fishermen today swear by their effectiveness. Indian Scent Lure Co., for example, can impart the smell of a sea worm to a plastic version and early results seem to confirm that the idea works! If these ideas do work and find general acceptance among fishermen, then the future may hold forth the promise of an even higher degree of scientific angling.



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Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

★ KINGFISH ★

I was stowing my gear in the car when two youngsters, complete with spinning rods and fish buckets approached. "Mister," inquired the oldest as he dug into his bucket, "what kind of fish are these?" He held up two fish about a pound apiece. "Kingfish," I replied. "And nice ones, too. Where'd you lucky guys get them?" He pointed to a small pier jutting into Peconic Bay. "Over there; but that's all we caught. You get anything?" "Not much...only four flounders." I noticed the eager interest on their faces. I hesitated; then shrugged my shoulders. "You kids want 'em; they're yours." So I gave the fish away to two happy, budding fishermen. In turn, their kingfish catch put me in an optimistic frame of mind, for at the time we fishermen were suffering through the pangs of a cool and rainy mid-May, and I was beginning to have doubts if it would ever end. But here was indeed proof that summer was fast approaching. I hoped it would be a good season. I say that because the lack or abundance of fish is often cyclic. I'm sure you've heard mackerel referred to as "feast or famine fish." But actually these scrappers aren't the only species carrying this tag. Kingfish are also prime candidates for this classification. Some years kings are easy to come by, and during others they are conspicuous by their absence.

As far as I'm concerned, last year offered lackluster kingfish action. I don't know how you made out, but I didn't catch a one. And I tried, too. Oh, how I tried, for I am a great kingfish fan. My usual Peconic Bay hotspots produced plenty of porgies, but no kings. My favorite shore spot at the end of the jetty on the northwest side of Shinnecock Canal failed completely, although I did see several taken by neighboring fishermen. But I got zip each time I tried.

Perhaps this season will make up for last year's poor showing. Past experience agrees that this happens more often than not. My old friend, Captain Eric Westerlind of the Captree party boat "Capt. Eric," was a firm believer in this. "No apple tree is heavily ladened with fruit every year," he used to say when we spoke about this phenomenon. And what Captain Eric said, he had first thought about. So, with this bit of hope in mind, let's see how to go about catching these finny bits of dynamite.

Our kingfish season is short—shorter than most. While early arrivals are caught along about mid-May (usually by flounder fishermen), successful kingfishing is best during June, July and August, with the edge favoring the latter two. Unless the weather remains unseasonably hot, kingfishing comes rapidly to an end just after Labor Day.

I've noticed, too, that these fish seem super-sensitive to cold water, and it isn't necessary for these fluctuations to be extreme. Because kings feed in the shallows, several days of cool northwest winds can send them packing into deeper water. This is one of the reasons anglers find kingfish so frustrating. Often, it's a case of here today, gone tomorrow.

Kings can also be trying in another respect. You may work wonders with them one day, return the next loaded for bear, and not get so much as a bite. Sure, they move about the general area as will all fishes; but this isn't the only reason for lack of action. Not only are kingfish easily affected by temperature, they also seem to be aware of approaching storms; therefore, if you fish on days with low barometer readings, you may just leave yourself open for a skunking.

Old-timers were aware of this and called the kingfish a "weather prophet." If their catch of kings suddenly tapered off while engaging in some hot and heavy fishing, they needed no barometer reading to tell what to expect weather-wise the next day.

But all this aside, plenty of fishermen go out each summer and try their luck from boats, beaches, piers, creek banks, canal bulkheadings, jetties, and the like. When they succeed, those who have never caught kings before are sure to have nothing but glowing praise for this scrappy fish. And by the same token, veteran fishermen never cease to be amazed at the amount of the power and stamina packed into so small an adversary. As I've said many times before, it is too bad kings do not become as large as stripers, weaks, or blues. If they did, they'd be the most popular of all our sport fishes.

The average king isn't large. By that I mean, don't expect any five pounders. Those caught in sheltered waters are about one pound—with a chance always of nailing a two pounder. My largest, which also happened to be the first I caught, weighed three-and-a-half pounds. That feat was accomplished when I was a knee-pants kid a good many years ago. Incidentally, this fish was caught in mid-May while doing a bit of flounder fishing near East Rockaway Inlet.

While I've succeeded twice in catching a three-pounder, most have been less than two; the majority around one. I've heard of six pounders taken in the surf, but have never seen one. Years ago, though, I witnessed a scale-weighed five pounder, so there's reason to believe a six pounder might be possible for some lucky fisherman. But don't count on it.

Light spinning tackle is ideal because most fishing is done in shallow, sheltered areas. When I try my hand at the game, I use this light whenever possible and usually load my reel with four pound test mono. This enables me to use a one ounce bank sinker and even when I hook a one pounder, this stuff gives me plenty of action. If I fish near inlets and wherever tidal currents are stronger than normal, I use a medium weight outfit and ten pound test mono. This is because under these conditions, heavier sinkers are required to hold bottom. I find that if necessary, I can use sinkers to four ounces and still have control.

When surf fishing for kings—which I don't do often—a conventional surf rod or surf spinning outfit is a must. You've got to get that bait out where the fish feed and anything less will not have the oomph to do it. I get better results when I fish in the lee of an ocean jetty or sand bar. You'll find the current greatly reduced in these areas. Not only that, kingfish like the adjacent deep holes. Most times, the larger fish will be there waiting for food to be swept into these prime fishing spots.

Rigging is no problem. A 1/0 Claw or Beak-type hook is best. I'm a great believer in the Sproat hook and there's no reason in the world you can't use it if that's all you have, but the Claw or Beak is preferred. This is because kingfish hit the bait on the run; they won't stop and toy with it. You'll get one hard shot, and that's it. This often happens without warning and nine out of ten times, the

(Continued on page 28.)

Ocean inlets and areas offering hard sand bottoms are prime spots to catch kingfish at.

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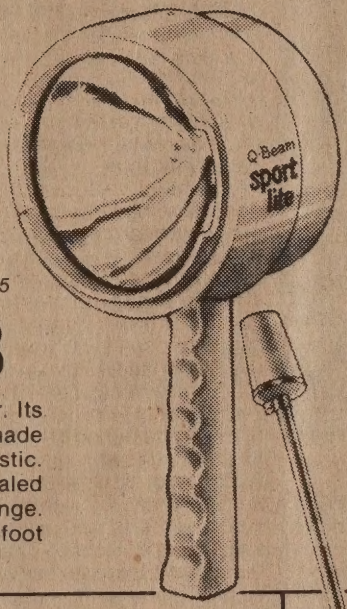

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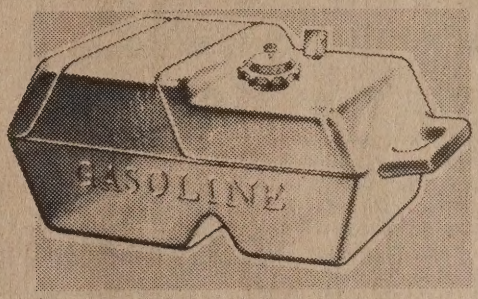

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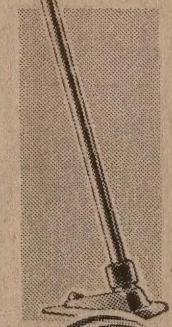

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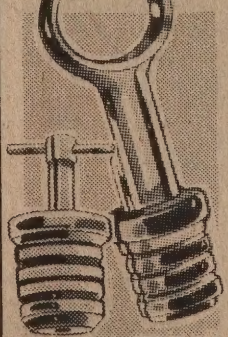

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Surf Side with John Fritz

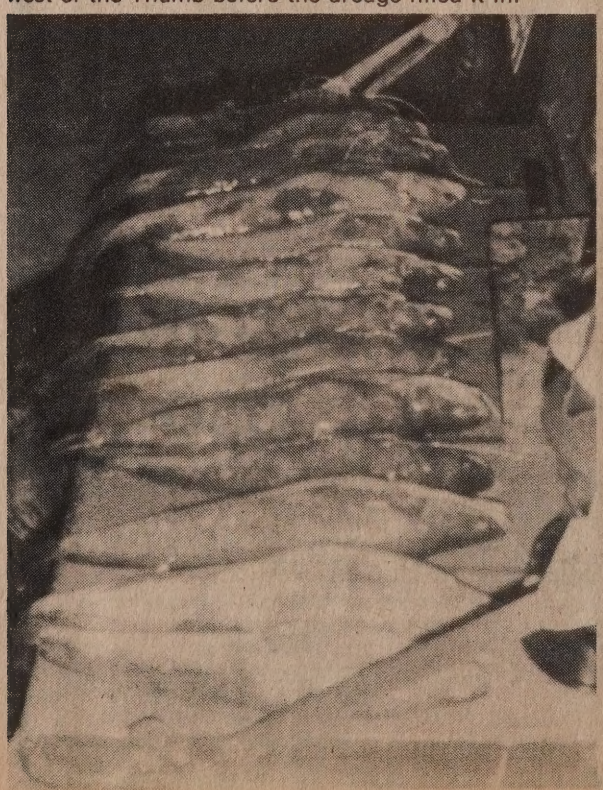
STRIPER SUBSTITUTE

As of the third week of May, 1977, there was still no appreciable signs of bass activity in the waters adjacent to Fire Island Inlet. Worm dunking at Cedar commencing in mid-April produced one short for many hours of effort and many dollars spent on bait. Even that one small bass was not taken by me—but by lucky George. The scene of this wasted effort remained the same, but the bait had progressed to mackerel chunks. The mackerel were the product of a few trips to Smithtown Bay earlier in the month. The morning of the twentieth saw George and I at the Cedar Bar staring at our four rod tips and griping about the lack of fish. After several hours of trying difference spots around the bar, we decided to fish an interesting point of land to the west at Gilgo. The discharge from the dredging operation taking place at this time, had built a sand spit jutting out 100 yards from the normal course of the beach. Hopeful that this new location would produce results, we cast our lines and waited expectantly for a hit. Nothing happened. Half an hour passed in the usual way of bottom fishing when no sea creatures are interested in your offering. Another trip to the thermos, one more cigarette, and the often-repeated tales of successful fishing in years gone by.

"Time for a bait change," I thought.

In the process of reeling in, I was suddenly brought to a halt as my line snagged on the bottom. What the hell is this? It's a sandy bottom—fresh sand at that. The discharge end of the pipeline is only fifty feet to my right. With a forceful heave on the eleven-foot stick, the pyramid sinker pulled free from a sharp dropoff seventy-five feet off the beach.

Excited discussion with George recalled memories of similar ledges which yielded fish, such as the shore line west of the Thumb before the dredge filled it in.



"You know where I'll be tonight," was George's statement after the possibilities were considered.

What time are you picking me up, George?

Disregarding a phone call from Steve about whiting being taken inside the inlet on artificials, the stroke of ten saw us set-up and ready to go.

A warning from the worker at the end of the pipeline that pumping will commence in fifteen minutes was ignored. The night was too perfect for bottom fishing; a pleasant night with a slight southwest breeze and a gently rolling surf.

Losing very little time, George's rod arched heavily under the weight of four ounces of lead and a healthy chunk of frozen mackerel. Once the cast was complete, a slow retrieve was started until the dropoff could be felt. The drag was set and the rod placed into the sand spike. As George returned to the buggy to prepare his second rod, a quick glance up from my preparations detected a telltale bounce on the rod he had just cast. A warning shout brought instant response. A powerful backward thrust on the rod was followed by his exhilarating yell, "I'm in!"

After that elated statement, the pitch of excitement took a definite turn downward. A sand shark? Naw, too early! Can't be any game fish unless he is very small, but that was a big chunk of bait thrown out.

After a few little bumps to let the angler know he was still there, the fish was unceremoniously dragged up the beach into the light of the Coleman Lantern.

Well, I'll be damned! A ling! Are you sure?

I thought you only caught them from party boats while codfishing. I tried to recall any knowledge of this species from my days of party boat fishing many years before. We decided that they were good to eat, besides which, with the luck we've been having lately, it's action.

Steady activity using surf rigs kept off the bottom with a cork was decimating our supply of bait, while putting a good amount of fresh table fare on the beach.

Once again my rod bounced as the bait was picked up in the darkness. Nonchalantly, I took up the rod and set the hook, only this time instead of a few feeble tugs signifying another ling, my rod arched heavily as line was pulled off under the thrust of a large fish.

"Bass," I yelled, as the buzz of the drag made music to my ears.

Five-ten-fifteen-twenty seconds, the fish swam straight out, followed by that heart-rending feeling of nothing. "Nuts" was one of the nicer words uttered at that point, but at least there were decent fish in the area. With our interest renewed, fresh bait was slung into the inky blackness. Our reward was more ling. By 2AM, our bait supply was exhausted, so we packed it in with the intention of coming back the following night in hope of a return engagement with the lone bass that showed its presence.

Subsequent nights produced no bass and a lesser and lesser amount of ling, until finally all action died in this area.

We fished bottom with chunk mackerel for bait using heavy equipment, such as eleven foot sticks and Crack 300 reels because our main goal was striped bass. The heavy tackle did nothing to enhance the sport of catching these fish, but if ling is your goal, your tackle can be scaled down to whatever the surf conditions will allow.

The ling were not finicky as to which terminal rig they preferred. Any of the three surf bottom rigs can be employed: the pompano, the fish-finder, or the surf rig.

A quick descripton of these rigs for those of you new to the sport follows.

The pompano is simply a twenty-four inch leader to which four loops are tied. The bottom loop for the sinker, two dropper loops six and eighteen inches above, and the final loop on the opposite end for attachment to your snap swivel. The leaderless eyed hooks are fastened to your dropper loops to complete the rig.

The surf rig is a three-way swivel to which a short length of monofilament is tied to one eye for the sinker. A second eye is adorned with a leadered hook, and the third eye is secured to your line.

The fish-finder or sliding sinker rig can be purchased

(Continued on page 28.)

★★★★★★★★★★

HOW-TO SPECIAL FEATURE

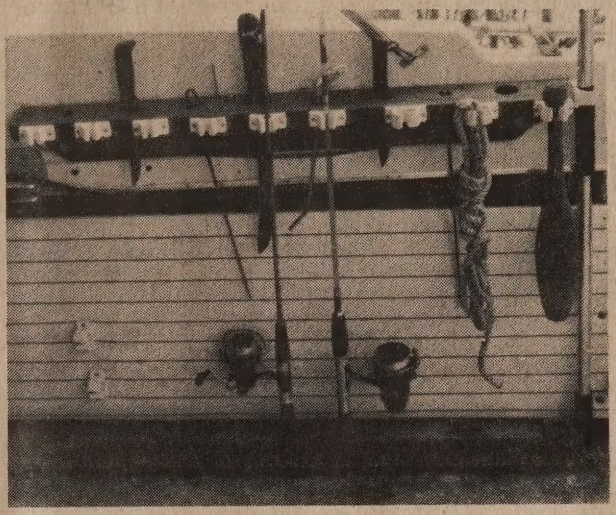
★★★★★★★★★★

ROD RACKS

In this corner:
Robert Hunt
Babylon Tuna Club

Here is a rod rack that is adaptable, not only to all boats, but to the type of fishing you do. By shortening the length of this rod rack, it can be fitted to the console of a center console boat. Yet if you lengthen it, it will hold as many rods as you wish.

There are two unique features of this rod rack. One is that a handy space is provided behind the rods for knives, pliers, bait needles, tagging equipment or any other specific fishing hardware. The second feature is the elastic cord that ties down the rods when under way. After all rods are racked, the elastic cord is strung around them and clipped on. This prevents a rod from falling when you hit that other guy's wake too fast. Once you begin to fish, the cord is removed and spare rods can be quickly and easily grabbed as needed.



Materials:

3 pcs. 3/4'' Mahogany, 4'' wide 36'' long
OR
1 pc. 3/4'' Mahogany 1x12-36'' long. (Rip-saw this lengthwise.)
8 Salibury Brand White Clips (rubber)—diameter as needed.
6 - 1½'' #8 Brass or stainless flat-head screws.
2 Eye Screws.
36' Stretch Cord.

PROCEDURE

Top Piece:

1. Cut 4'' board to 36'' length.
2. Round corners.
3. Drill 6 holes for assembly screws; keep spacing equal.
4. Locate holes for bait needles.
5. Drill 3/4'' holes for bait needles.
6. Locate hole for Billy Club.
7. Drill 1-3/4'' hole for Club.
8. Locate knife slots. Draw a 1½'' line parallel to front edge.
9. Drill a ¼'' hole at each end of the 1½'' line.
10. Draw a line connecting the outside edges of each hole.
11. Chisel or saw on these lines to form the knife slot.
12. Space rod clips as needed; install on front edge.
13. Drill a 3/16'' hole 5/8'' deep for tagging needle, if desired.

Back Piece:

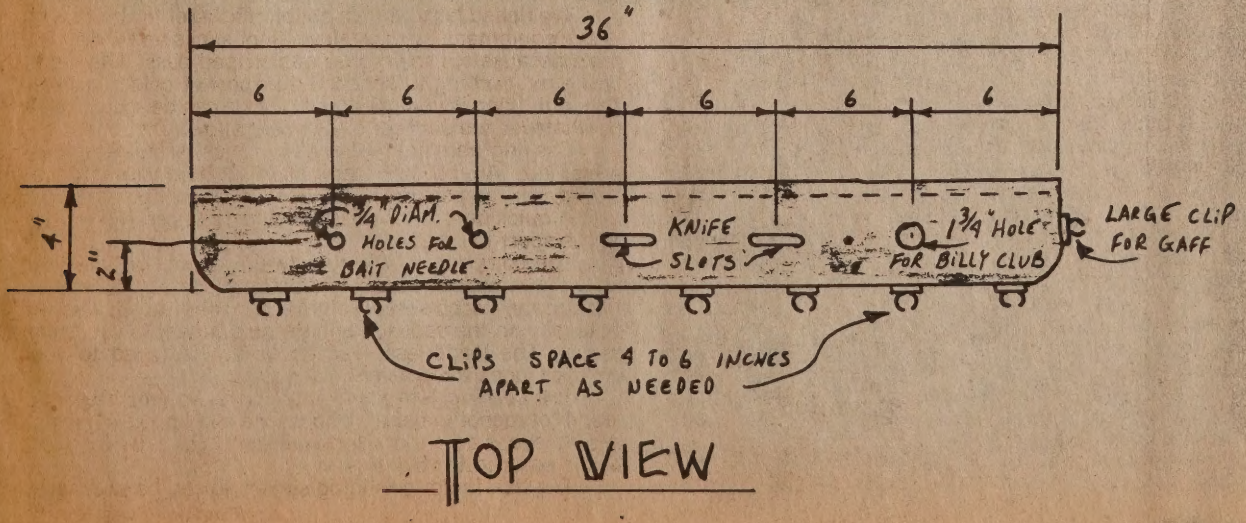
1. Cut a 36'' piece of 4'' mahogany.
2. Mark off 3'' up and in from bottom edge on both sides (45° angle).
3. Draw a line.
4. Cut on this line to give you the 45° cut.
5. Locate and mark the spot for the eye screws.
6. Use an awl or small drill to start, and install eye screws.

Base:

1. Cut a 36'' piece of 4'' mahogany.
2. Locate Center Line.
3. On center line, mark spacing of holes to correspond with spacing of rod clips on top piece. Drill all holes 2'' in diameter.
4. Sand and round off all corners.

Assembly:

1. Liberally apply teak oil to all parts.
2. Fasten the top piece to the back piece, using 6 #8 1½'' screws.
3. Mount top assembly about 28'' off deck in your boat.
4. Mount base piece so that the holes in base are directly below rod clips. Use a plumb bob held in rod clip to point to the center of the hole in base.
5. Attach stretch cord.



TOP VIEW

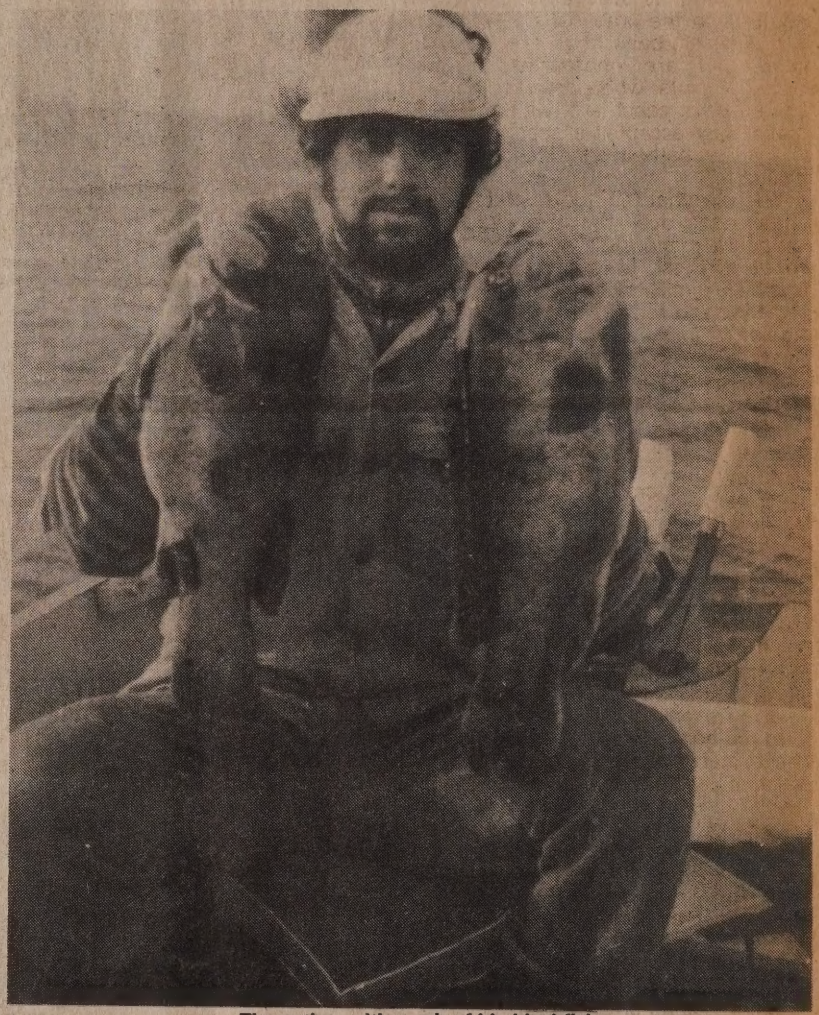
Western L.I. Sound Blackfish

by Ron Onorato

Western Long Island Sound is really a unique angling ground, and those who have access to fish its waters are really quite fortunate. There has been no question about it: striper and bluefishing has really declined the past few years. The diehard bass fisherman will always drill out his fish or two, and the fanatic bluefisherman will do likewise. However, the average fisherman is not willing to spend hours on end, with the prospect of taking just a fish or two. His time is limited, and he wants to put some fish in the box—just as we all do. This is where Mr. Blackfish steps in to fill the void left by the bass and blues, and he fills the ticket commendably. Blackfish have been plentiful on many of the western Long Island Sound grounds for the past few springs, and there are no indications that the fish won't be abundant for years to come.

The western Sound areas must have been created by nature specifically for blackfish, for it is an ideal habitat for the white chinners. While many sneer at the mere mention of blackfish, little do they realize that blackfishing is much more than simply dropping a hook with a piece of bait to the bottom, and starting to pull in fish. A successful blackfisherman must be keenly aware of the bottom structure. There is no such thing as luck when it comes to blackfishing—the experts make their own luck. Blackfishing really is an art that requires a good knowledge of bottom structures, ranges onshore and offshore, tide, and wind conditions.

Much has been written about the blackfish, so we'll limit our discussion of the fish to a few brief statements. Blackfish feed heavily on various forms of crustacea such as crabs, mussels, barnacles, etc. This sort of forage is seldom found on any piece of ground other than a rocky bottom or some sort of wreckage. Based on this fact, the range of the black is usually limited to a very rocky bottom: a wreck, a reef, or mussel beds. Now the important thing to bear in mind, is that not every rocky area holds blackfish, and not every section of a reef of mussel bed holds fish. For whatever the reason, the fish hold in only certain areas of bottom—usually in small groups, and will shun an area that may appear to be the same, but actually is not. Even a spot that is but a hundred feet away on the same reef or mussel bed may not have fish. Quite obviously then, the most important aspect of blackfishing is exact placing of the boat on a small piece of bottom. The same rule of fishing applies here as it does with just about any other type of fishing: limit your fishing to one or two areas, and learn them well. As we shall see, the western areas of the Sound hold some of the best blackfishing grounds to be found almost anywhere.



The author with a pair of big blackfish.

Tackle requirements are just about as numerous as the spots you'll be fishing in, and also will be determined by personal preference. For the most part, the currents are light and the water depth shallow in most areas. The only place where the current might be a serious consideration is around the Eaton's Neck area. Both spinning and conventional tackle can be successfully used. The main thing with spinning tackle is paying a lot of attention to the line and making sure that it is in good shape.

Hook size will be determined largely by the size of the fish that are being caught. As a general rule, #6 Virginia style hooks will fill the bill for both large and small size fish. For purposes of concealment, some fishermen prefer a #8 size hook, while others prefer to use a #4 size hook, especially when they are using green crab bait. I have never found the blackfish to be leader conscious, even when the water was clear, so this really may not be a serious consideration. Usually two hooks are rigged in tandem right above the sinker. If the bottom is extremely foul, it may pay

to go to just a single hook. Either way you go, you're probably going to donate a fair amount of tackle to the bottom.

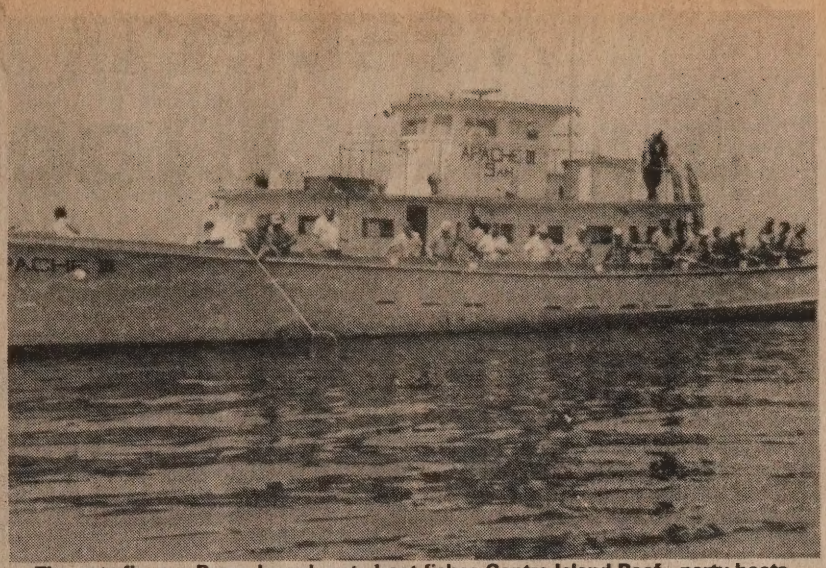
As far as baits go, there are but two, maybe three types of bait that the serious blackfisherman will use. Although the black will take virtually any bait—such as worm, soft clam, or piece of squid—it is the crab bait that will put the bacon in the bucket. The fiddler crab and the green crab are by far and away the most effective bait, each having its own applications. In addition to the crab baits, there are two sleeper baits that are seldom used, but are nonetheless viable blackfish baits: whole steamer clams, and strips of conch are two baits that make very acceptable substitutes to the other baits when they are not available.

I believe that the fiddler crab has a slight edge over the green crab in usage as a blackfish enticer. Thousands of these little critters are air shipped from Florida to bait dealers in the northeast region. At one time, the fiddler crab was fairly abundant in many of the Long Island marshes and creeks, but recently, they have been scarce. Some old-timers still prefer to net their own bait; but for most of us, the bait dealer is the source of our supply.

One fiddler crab is placed on each hook, unless they are exceptionally small, at which time two are placed on a hook. If the crab has a large claw, it should be broken off, and the hook should be inserted in the socket so that the point of the barb just pierces the top shell. Don't force the hook all the way through the shell, as this just about destroys the tiny crab. For this reason, it may pay you to go to a #8 Virginia hook. The fresher the crabs, the firmer they are; so try to get a batch of bait that looks like it contains lively crabs. If you get a bag of dead crabs, they may be soft, and can easily be removed from the hook.

While some veteran blackfishermen swear that fiddler crabs are good only for small blacks, this isn't the case at all. Fish of all sizes will take the fiddler crab, even those big white c hinned bulldogs. The only time the fiddler loses its effectiveness is when the bergalls are exceptionally fierce, and they start taking the fiddler off the hook. On occasions, the bergalls can be hectic, and this is especially true when wreck fishing; but for the most part, they are only minor nuisances when fishing on the rocks and reefs.

The green crab has become a widely accepted bait mainly because it is a tough bait, and virtually impossible to take from the hook without the fish being hooked. Green crabs will also live in a cooler for anywhere from a week to ten days—far longer than the fragile fiddlers, and this makes them popular with the bait men who have to invest several hundred dollars on them. While most of us are content to purchase our own supply from the



The nets fly as a Bronx based party boat fishes Centre Island Reef—party boats are good for pinpointing blackfish hotspots, but don't crowd them.

Small boats crowd the Matinecock Point wreck when blacks start running. Here a sharpie bags a husky blackfish.

Ray Benett looks over a husky six-pound blackfish.

bait shop, green crabs are fairly plentiful in certain areas of Long Island, enough so that a day's supply can be acquired without too much effort. My favorite spots are the Far Rockaway jetties around Beach 9th Street and adjoining areas. Simply go down to any one of the rock structures with a chunk of fish on a string around high tide, drop it along the edge of the jetty and start lifting up the crabs as they grab onto the fish. Usually you can get five or six dozen in a few hours after hitting a couple of jetties.

Contrary to popular belief, you have to remove the back shell from the green crab before you put it onto the hook. Once you've got the back of the shell off the crab, trim the legs so that only small portions of them are left on the body. Now simply cut the crab into half if it is a large one, or if it is small, place the whole thing on the hook. The hook is inserted into one of the leg sockets and the barb is then pushed into the body of the crab, with the tip of the barb just protruding. For whatever reasons, big fish and deep water maximize the effectiveness of the green crab.

The other two baits that deserve an honorable mention include the steamer clam, and the conch. The steamer clams that are most effective are the one-inch jobs—these are most numerous on many of the mud flats. Simply crack the shell without totally destroying the clam, and insert the hook through it. This makes a fine bait, and will not be easily removed from the hook. Another good bait, that I suppose could be classified as a soft bait, is a strip of conch. Conch is best known on the party boats when it is used to thwart bergalls on the ocean wrecks. Believe me, this works extremely well up on the north shore.

As mentioned earlier, not all the rocks you see will hold blacks, and it is important to fish a precise area. How do you learn about precise areas? Watch other boats that are taking fish in an area—especially party boats—and remember where they are fishing and on what particular tide. This doesn't mean that you should crowd a boat that is into fish; but pass close by and make some shore ranges and take a depth reading. Next time around, you'll be in that spot and not the party boat. So many fishermen complain that when they catch no fish, that it is a wasted day. The only time that any trip is wasted is when you do not learn something: then it really is wasted. On many occasions, I have not once wet a line when fishing in a new area, but rather spent the time looking and watching, so that the next time will be for fishing.

Here are a few favorite blackfish grounds in western Long Island Sound that have been very productive for the past few springs. I'll try to be as precise as possible, but until you actually fish that particular spot, it will only put you in the general area. Unlike other types of fishing that requires you to stay put and try to get the fish near your boat by such things as chumming, with blackfishing either the fish will be there or they won't. If you're anchored in a spot and don't take a fish within fifteen minutes, move the boat. First, start casting off a few feet in every direction and see what happens. Sometimes the fish are on such a tiny piece of ground that only a patch of ground a few square feet big will produce. I've seen this happen time and again on a party boat. Somewhere along the railing, three or four fishermen will be bailing fish, while the rest of the patrons go fishless. Frustrating to say the least, but that is the way blackfishing sometimes is. Don't forget that sometimes a move of a hundred feet or so will move you into fish.

Here are a few spots that will put you in at least the general area of some fine blackfish grounds. You're going to have to make some moves to get yourself into the action, but at least you'll be in the ballpark.

The Matinicock Point Wreck. This is a heavily fished wreck that has been consistent for as long as it has been around. This submerged sailboat is located about a mile southwest of the Matinicock Buoy. It lies in about twenty feet of water, and is directly in front of the Russian Embassy in Glen Cove. A small creek empties out of Dosoris Pond and is about 300 yards due north from here. It is a sizeable wreck and can host five or six small boats. There almost always is a boat fishing on it at one time or another, and the bergalls are really fierce at times. Use green crabs up here for those big seven and eight pound fish that are taken on a daily basis.

Matinicock Point. This once productive reef hasn't been the producer of fish that it once was, but it still is worth a look when other grounds don't pan out. Actually, only a small piece of the reef is fishable. About 150 feet from the buoy, almost due west of the Can, is a small patch of rocks in fifteen feet of water. You would probably have to make a couple of moves before you're into the fish.

Oak Neck Point. This spot is a real hideaway especially on those days when there is a lot of traffic on the other grounds. Actually, the point itself is not the area that you're going to fish, but some rocky ground tight to the beach just to the east of the point itself. As you proceed easterly across Oak Neck Point, head back south, or to the right, and hug the beach. You're going to see a series of bluffs along the beach. Just before the last bluff ends, you'll see a couple of large beach houses right at the end of the beach. Make some blind drops close to the beach anywhewre from ten to fifteen feet of water. This is probably the hardest of all spots to find, but if you grab it right, you can have steady action—and be alone, too.

Centre Island Shoal (Reef). This is the finest blackfishing area in western Long Island Sound. Probably more blacks come from this reef than from any of the other areas in this region. Like Matinicock Point, only a few small pieces of the whole reef will actually prod e fish. The first and most favorab spot is just a couple of yards south f the bell buoy marking the edge of the reef. There are a couple of lobster pots here and the water is about twenty feet deep. There are rocks on rocks here, and many of the party boats like this spot. The area that produces is fairly large, so this is almost a sure bet after a couple of drops. The inside part of the reef produces big fish when the tide is midway through the flood. Start about 200 feet from the beach and work your way out towards the buoy until you're about 300 feet from the beach. On the days when the fish are heavy, virtually any spot on the reef will give up a few fish; but when the fish are a little tight, these spots will have them.

The list could go on and on. As you can see, it is imperative that you move until you get into some fish. It may not be unusual to move five or six times before things start happening. Maybe you'll luck out and have action on the first drop. Either way, pay attention to details and don't be lazy, and there is no way you're going to miss.

REWARD!
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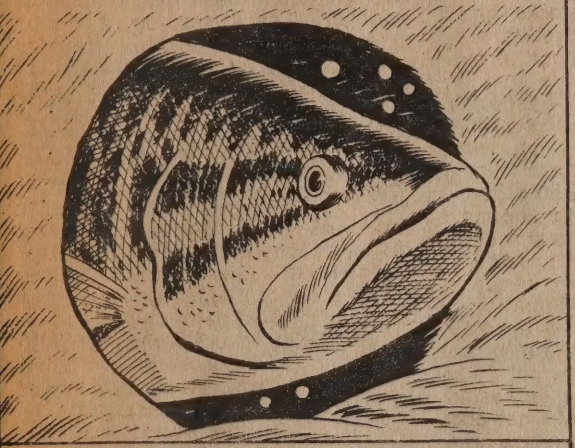
FISH & MARINE NEWS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

AQUATIC CREATURES SUCH AS TURTLES, FROGS AND FISH FIND HANDY HIDING PLACES AND REST SPOTS IN THE UNDERWATER TUNNELS DUG OUT BY MUSKRATS.

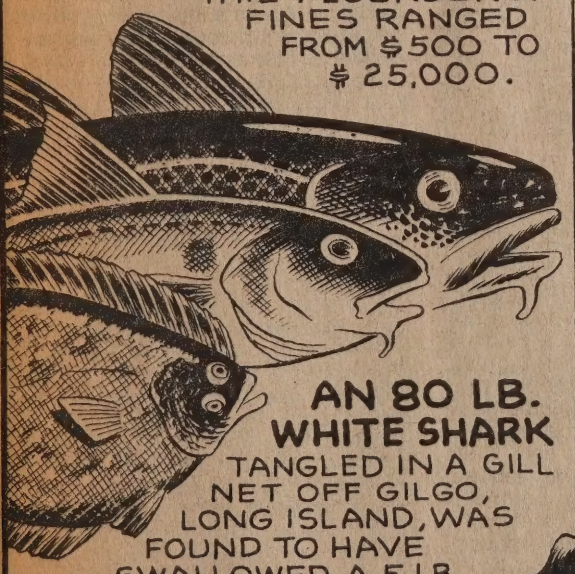


STRIPED BASS, DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS, HAVE BEEN TAGGED BY N.Y. STATE RESEARCHERS. FISH EIGHT INCHES OR LESS CARRY A "*CARLIN*" TAG, BRIGHT ORANGE WITH A NUMBER AND RETURN ADDRESS WHICH GETS THE FINDER A $1.00 REWARD.

ACTUAL SIZE

OBSOLETE LIBERTY SHIPS ARE BEING USED FOR ARTIFICIAL FISHING REEFS – 29 SO FAR AND THERE ARE ONLY 6 OF THESE WWII CARGO SHIPS LEFT. THE U.S. MARITIME ADMINISTRATION, FLEET DISPOSAL BRANCH, WASH. D.C. HANDLES THE APPLICATIONS.

FISHING VIOLATIONS BY U.S. FISHERMEN IN 1977 TOTALLED 170 CASES OF OVER THE LIMIT COD, HADDOCK AND YELLOW TAIL FLOUNDERS. FINES RANGED FROM $500 TO $25,000.

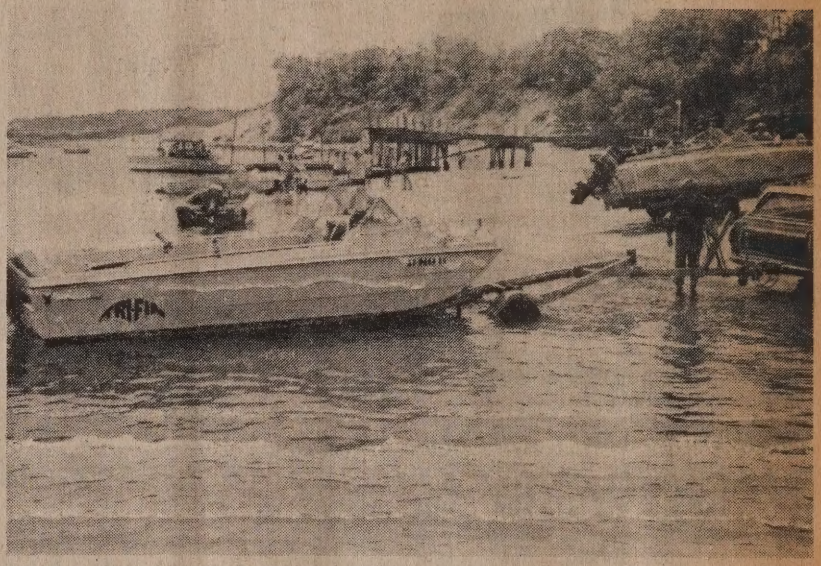


AN 80 LB. WHITE SHARK TANGLED IN A GILL NET OFF GILGO, LONG ISLAND, WAS FOUND TO HAVE SWALLOWED A 5 LB. WEAKFISH, A SIZEABLE DOG-FISH AND A MESS OF FLOUNDERS!

THE DEEP SEA CHAULIODUS, A STOMIATOID, IS NOT YOUR EVERYDAY FISH. HIS JAWS REALLY OPEN UP TO SWALLOW HIS DINNER WHICH HIS GLOWING WHIP-LIKE LURE HAS ATTRACTED IN THE 2 MILE DEPTHS.

ONE IF BY LAND

by Andy Regina



It's not too far from The Bronx to Smithtown, maybe fifty miles due east on the Grand Central Parkway, running into the Northern State Parkway, then all the way to its termination—Veteran's Memorial Highway. It might just as well have been five hundred miles because there I was, stuck in The Bronx without a car at the moment, and supposed to meet Mickey Chiarenza out there for a fishing trip.

Mickey produces those famous Tri-Fin lures that you probably know about, and I had been doing some testing for him, here at the western end of the Sound for about a year. We always wanted to get together for some fishing, but our open dates had never corresponded: he was busy when I was free, and vice versa. Over the winter, we kept in touch with each other—first by mail, then by phone. Finally, early in the spring, we set a date.

Two days before blast-off, my jalopy gave up the ghost, and I frantically called him, trying to set up some means of keeping our appointment. We must have called each other back and forth about a dozen times, keeping the phone lines between us humming, and making Ma Bell richer in the process, before we got things down pat. My brother-in-law came to our rescue, providing my transportation in exchange for accompanying us on the trip. It all was resolved at the eleventh hour—late Saturday night. We were to meet Mickey early Sunday morning, but had not yet agreed as to where the best place to meet would be: at Mickey's house, or at the municipal launching ramp at King's Park, which would be our outlet into the Sound.

I wasn't too sure of the way to the ramp, and besides I wouldn't be driving, and in the dark, from the co-pilot's seat of Joe's car—well, anything could happen. To save the expense of yet another phone call, I left it up to Mickey to decide where to meet; telling him to merely give me a signal instead of speaking directly. We left that it that—he'd call me about an hour later, letting the phone ring once if we were to meet him at his home, and twice if we were to try to meet him at the ramp. Sure enough, an hour later, my phone rang once: we'd meet him at his house.

Crunching gravel in Mickey's driveway about five minutes before our set five o'clock meeting, Joe's car glided to a stop before a completely darkened house. As we quietly debated the merits of ringing Mickey's doorbell (You ring it! No, you ring it!), out stepped our host, slipping into a sweater, and inviting us in for a cup of coffee. Fifteen minutes later, we were ready to depart.

Boy, the joys of country living! Not only do you guys have it all over us city boys—no noise, no traffic, no pollution, etc., not to mention trees and green grass (here we have cement sidewalks, brick tenements, noise, pollution, etc.) but you can keep a boat on a trailer in your yard, and be ready to hitch up and roll in seconds. Try doing that here, and you can kiss it goodbye!

Anyhow, we piled into Mickey's station wagon, which was already hitched to his rig, and made for the launching ramp at King's Park, at the mouth of the Nissequogue River. His son, Jimmy, never one to miss a fishing trip, joined us, crawling into the back of the wagon, where he promptly fell asleep—par for the course for a seven-year-old! Twenty minutes later, we arrived at our destination.

The Town Ramp at King's Park is not bad; fairly large, protected from open water, and in good repair with ample parking, rest rooms, and a snack bar nearby. I've seen a lot worse, but I've also seen a lot better—the ramp at Heckscher State Park being the finest to my mind. Here you not only have ample space, plenty of parking and well-kept facilities, but the added convenience of floating docks and freshwater washing areas. The only thing missing was fish cleaning areas, but there might be some method in their madness here, because the entire area was spotless when I was there.

In quick order, Mickey backed down to the water, and got the boat launched, tossing me a line to keep the boat docked, as he parked the wagon and trailer. Five minutes later, we were under way, sliding out into the Sound as the sun peeked through, presaging a fair day.

Our quest that day was mackerel; fairly abundant in numbers recently, but no sure guarantee. No fishing is guaranteed; if it was, then a lot of the thrill and mystique of our favorite sport would be lost to us, not to mention the challenge. If it ever comes to that point, I guess I'll pack it in: what fun would it be?

We saw some swirls on the surface as we headed out to deep water, so decided to investigate. I'm an ultra-light nut, and have convinced my brother-in-law of the great fun to be had with this tackle, because his idea of fishing was to fish bottom with bait, using fairly heavy conventional tackle. He'd set his rod down, once it was baited and lowered to the bottom, and read the newspaper while waiting for a bite. Now to me, that's not fishing, although you can get in a lot of reading that way. I figure that if I want to read, I'll stay home or go to a library: my idea of fishing is to have fun. I like to fool that fish, or tease him into biting; and I've got to have that rod in my hand at all times—working, jigging, reeling, or poised at

the ready, in anticipation.

Ultralight tackle is ideally suited to my style: you can hold that mini-tackle for hours, and not get tired, and you can get to where you swear that you can feel the fish think. I mean, that's how hyper-sensitive that rod tip is, plus the fact that now you are able to use the lures or sinkers that weigh next to nothing, which does not detract from even the slightest nibble. Using a good reel that has a smooth drag (that's redundant. Good reels do have smooth drags.) will whip any fish you can catch with this tackle, assuming all conditions are in your favor.

That day I introduced little Jimmy to the joys of ultralight fishing, too. Tying a one-eighth ounce diamond jig to the six pound test mono, I told Jimmy to cast it out a short way from the boat, and made him retrieve it in a slow, whipping motion. His very first attempt had him tied onto a two pound bolt of lightning that had that boy hooked on ultralight tackle for the rest of his life! Needless to say, I didn't get much fishing in, preferring to luxuriate in the sheer enjoyment of watching him have a ball. I didn't have the heart to take my tiny rod back, so I gave it it him to keep for his own. What the hell, it was only a rod and reel—small investment for such a large dividend: the pleasure I got from watching him enjoy himself more than compensated for mere Fiberglas and metal.

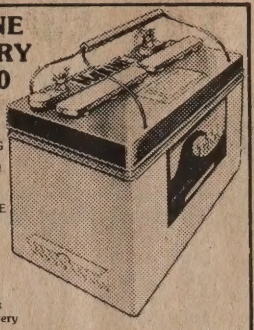
Well, we caught mackerel that day—all on ultralight tackle, just the four of us drifting on Long Island Sound, having a ball. And time caught up to us too soon. It was noon, and time to go. Prior commitments forced an early curtailment of our pleasure. Mickey had to make the last Mass, and I had to attend my niece's engagement party in New Jersey at three o'clock. As it was, we both stood in jeopardy of being late; so we split for home in a hurry.

Thankfully, the trip back in was a short one, and we had immediate access to the ramp. It was wide enough to accommodate about four or five trailers at the same time. Reversing our launching procedure, I held the boat at the dock while Mickey backed in the trailer; then I cast off to him, and he slid it onto the trailer as easy as pie. A few cranks of the winch, some tying down, a quick check of the brake lights, and we were on our way.

Headed westward towards New York, I reflected once more upon the joys of country living, and what might have been—if I lived out on the Island and had a rig of my own. Maybe God, in His infinite wisdom, planned it thus, I don't know. All I do know is that I sure would be stretching my marriage to the breaking point if I lived out on the Island, and had a rig of my own!

When your boat deserves the best

MARINE BATTERY #8070



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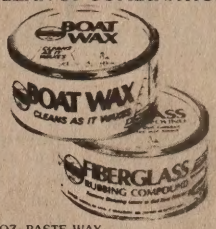

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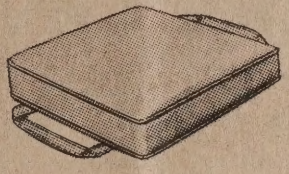

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HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR	6:36	7:00	7:23	7:50	7:12	7:38	8:15	8:34	10:43	11:02	10:04	10:23	6:21	6:44	5/4
FRI	7:21	7:43	8:13	8:34	8:01	8:21	9:01	9:15	11:30	11:45	10:54	11:08	7:09	7:30	5/5
SAT	8:06	8:22	8:56	9:14	8:44	9:03	9:43	9:54	—	12:13	11:36	11:50	7:53	8:12	5/6
SUN	8:46	9:01	9:37	9:55	9:28	9:44	10:25	10:35	12:23	12:51	—	12:20	8:35	8:55	5/7
MON	9:25	9:38	10:19	10:32	10:10	10:24	11:05	11:15	12:55	1:23	12:30	12:59	9:19	9:35	5/8
TUE	10:06	10:15	10:59	11:10	10:53	11:03	11:45	11:53	1:15	1:42	1:11	1:39	10:00	10:19	5/9
WED	10:47	10:52	11:39	11:51	11:40	11:45	—	12:30	1:37	2:06	1:49	2:18	10:43	11:01	5/10
THUR	11:31	11:34	—	12:21	—	12:25	12:36	1:15	2:11	2:39	2:31	3:00	11:28	11:46	5/11

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

5/1	5:56	7:58
5/6	5:50	8:04
5/11	5:44	8:09
5/16	5:39	8:14
5:21	5:34	8:19
5/26	5:31	8:24

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
5/7	5/15	5/22	5/29

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	**Major**	Minor	**Major**
Thurs.	2:55	**9:25**	3:25	**9:50**
Fri.	3:35	**10:10**	4:05	**10:35**
Sat.	4:20	**11:00**	4:50	**11:25**
Sun.	5:10	**11:50**	5:40	—
Mon.	6:00	**12:15**	6:30	**12:35**
Tues.	6:45	**1:10**	7:20	**1:35**
Wed.	7:50	**2:05**	8:15	**2:30**
Thurs.	8:45	**2:55**	9:05	**3:20**

PECONICS WEAKFISHING

by Carl Fritzsche

Every spring for the past several years, vast schools of weakfish have invaded Peconic Bay to begin their spawning ritual. At this time, the small craft angler is in seventh heaven as he goes about his way pursuing these so-called "sea trout." However, there are a number of beaches along this scenic shore that can provide rewarding moments for the surf fisherman, too.

One such place is the peninsula of Cow Neck, situated on Long Island's southern fork across from Robins' Island. The channel that flows between these two points of land is known as the South Race.

Soon after April is torn from the calendar page, the surf fishing clan begins to dominate this shore line. The most popular method employed here is bait fishing with squid.

A typical rig consists of a three-way swivel to which an eighteen inch leader of thirty pound test mono is fastened to one eye. A size 4/0 Eagle Claw bait holder hook is then snelled to the leader. A hook of this size might seem a bit large, yet many of the weaks taken here range in weight from five pounders to tiderunners of eight pounds and more. Affixed to the second eye is a length of line about fifteen inches having a three inch end loop at the opposite end to which the sinker is added. Some fishermen tie their line directly to the sinker, but I prefer using the end loop as it affords me a quick change of sinkers, should the need arise. Finally, the terminal end of one's line is tied to the third eye with an improved clinch knot. While on the subject of knots, Scott Simons has written an excellent article giving detailed instructions on how to tie these knots. ("Tying Rigs," L.I.F. #11, March 31, 1977.;

Generally speaking, a three ounce pyramid sinker should be sufficient in order to hold bottom, but at certain times additional lead may be necessary. This is especially true following slack tide, since the current will gain in momentum.

As mentioned earlier, the prime bait used here is squid—but not just any kind. For some reason, the weakfish of our area prefer local squid as opposed to the type imported from San Pedro, California. This squid comes packaged in small rectangular boxes, under the brand name "Fiesta." If you are unable to obtain local squid, the next best thing to do is go to your neighborhood fish market and ask for New England squid. In any case, stay away from the California variety.

Prepare the bait by cutting pennant-shaped strips from the mantle of the squid. These strips should be four or five inches long, and about one-and-a-quarter inch wide. Pass the hook through the strip at its widest part and slide it up the shank. Tiny spurs on the shank of this hook helps keep it in place. Next, twist the barb so the point is embedded in the flesh. Presenting the bait in this manner will permit the tapered portion to flutter in the current, giving it a natural appearance.

The standard "stick" employed here is a medium action spinning rod about nine to ten feet, equipped with a matching reel. Personally, I use a ten-footer, possessing a Penn Spinfisher 704 loaded with twenty pound test Ande.

Many anglers are contented with the method of still-fishing by inserting their rods in sand spikes. However, at times when there is a lull in the action, it will be better to try the cast and retrieve method. After completing your cast, wait for the sinker to hit bottom, then twitch your rod tip and pause. Do it again; twitch and pause. This will cause your rig to bounce along the bottom. After doing this several times, reel in the slack and repeat the procedure. On a number of occasions, I've succeeded in coaxing weakfish into taking the bait by using this sort of jigging tactic.

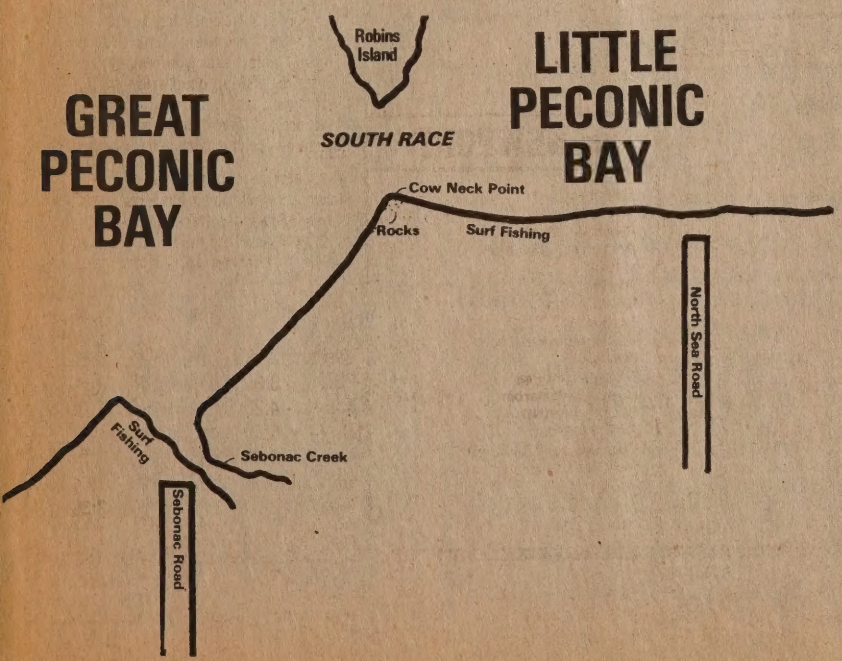
Remember, when weakfish strike never try horsing them in. As their name implies, weakfish have a paper-thin mouth, and any undue strain can easily result in tearing the hook loose. Instead, play the fish carefully, making sure your drag is operating smoothly and is adjusted to the proper setting. In this way, you are more likely to land your quarry, and at the same time, will be enjoying your sport to the fullest.

The best fishing occurs on the outgoing tide, particularly when coinciding with the hours of late afternoon and early evening. The change of tide at either high or low water is also a good time.

Another beach that has produced for me is Sebonac Neck, located a few miles away. Looking toward the north, you will notice a narrow waterway to your right. This is Sebonac Creek and it flows from shallow Bullhead Bay into the Great Peconic.

At the mouth of this inlet, the

(Continued on page 45.)



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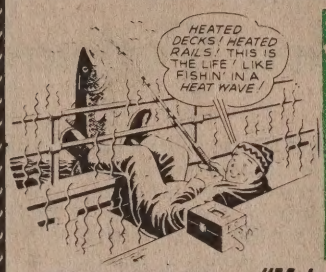

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fare $100 • 48 Passenger Limit • Reservations Only • $50 Deposit Required

★ TWO (2) DAY GEORGES BANKS SAFARI ★

COD • POLLACK • HADDOCK • HAKE • HALIBUT • TILEFISH
★★★ SAILS 12:01 AM TUESDAY, MAY 30th, RETURNS 7 PM WEDNESDAY, MAY 31st ★★★
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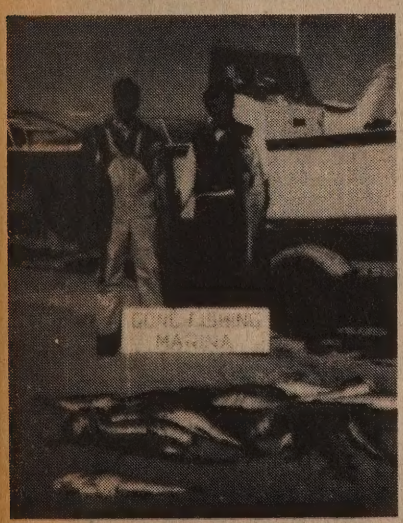
MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
CODFISH

Captain Warren Hader of the charterboat **Devilfish** called to say that he made his maiden voyage on Saturday and scored with 35 codfish. The fish were taken on Shark's Ledge off Block Island, and the charter had one cod over 30 lbs. But for the most part, the fish ranged from 5 to 10 lbs. Big Warren said that the fish are throwing up sand eels on the deck, just as they were last year during the phenomenal run. Thus far, there has been a very good quantity of fish, but the action has been a hit-or-miss affair at times, and the fish are still relatively small; but a few degree rise in the water temperature should see things settle down and the larger cod and schools of big pollock should be moving into the area.

Capt. Paul Sundberg of the charter boat **Montauk** reports his first big pollock catch of the season, three fish on Tuesday and three big pollock on Wednesday. This is aside from the catches of 95 cod Tuesday and 50 cod Wednesday all in the 5-6 lb. range. Wednesday pollock were all over 20 lbs., the biggest going up to 26 lbs. Tuesday fish were only slightly smaller. This could be the start of a strong pollock run.

Capt. Richie Rade of the **Marlin IV** happily reported that he's been knocking the socks off cod this week. Sunday was probably his best day, with Warren Kocker of Huntington high hook with 42 codfish. Twenty passengers had a total of 475 cod in the 5-10 lb range, with a few fish going 18 to 20 lbs. Scattered in were a few 10 to 12 lb. pollock. On Wednesday, two, 22 lb. pollock were boated on diamond jigs. A total of roughly 1500 fish, mostly cod were taken Wednesday through Sunday. Really a fantastic week, says Richie. In addition, 10 snowshoe



Lou Havel and Bob Kale with their catch of 30 to 40 cod weighing up to 30 lbs., taken at the Cartwright Grounds. Photo courtesy of Gone Fishin' Marina.

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POLLACK & COD
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flounder up to 5 lbs. were bagged during the week. Richie says this has got to be the best spring in at least five years.

On Sunday, the charter boat **Adios**, with Bill Romanchek and party for a total of 60 cod working south of Block Island on bait. All fish were caught in a just a short period of time.

Captain John DeMaio of the charterboat **Vivienne** said that the best trip during the week was Saturday, when 65 cod were taken by a four man charter fishing south of Block Island. One big pollock was also taken, and the fish are hitting both bait and DeMaio tube jigs.

Captain Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** called to say that fishing in depths of 60 to 85 feet of water has been producing good to excellent catches of cod all week without a miss in the Block Island area. Saturday's fishing wasn't that great, but Sunday's action was so hot that they were back to the dock early all bagged up.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** told us that Ronnie Goldberg of the Barba Jack is back in action and knocking them dead again at the Cartwright Grounds. On Saturday, the score was 60 cod, and on a short trip Sunday that had the boat back to the dock by noon fifty fish were taken; largest a 39 pounder.

Capt. Jack Mangano of the charterboat **Daybreak** also had a good day Saturday with 28 cod off Shark's Ledge. The party was headed by Bill Lantier and Charlie Salerno.

Captain Artie of the charterboat **Bumble Bee III** called to report the best score of the spring cod run that we have heard yet. Fishing southeast of Block Island just short of Shark's Ledge with a charter of three Pennsylvanians, 126 cod were brought to gaff. The captain said that about forty percent of the fish were taken on Ava diamond jigs and the rest were on bait. The key to the jig's effectiveness was a short piece of red tubing over the hook. Artie also said that the fishing in 80 ft. of water was all cod, with no dogfish or bergalls in the area.

Capt. John of the charter boat **Daybreak** had two charters out over the weekend and fished Block Island bagging 28 cod on Saturday and 22 cod on Sunday, all on bait.

Charter boat **Barracuda** called to advise us that the boat is now in the water at West Lake Fishing Lodge and he is now accepting spring charters for cod and pollock and that he will be available for weekday charters this year, as well as weekends.

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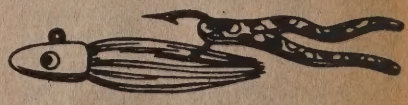
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SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

SHINNECOCK

The Capt. Clark I and II report that they are both doing very well on the flounders, fishing off Jamesport. Nick Circa had 34 fish Wednesday. The weekend was fair and Capt. Clark expects weakfishing to begin within 10 days.

HAMPTON BAYS

Corrs Fishing Station called to say flounder fishing remains good in Shinnecock Bay. Most boats are taking from 20 to 30 good sized flounders. High winds kept most anglers from fishing the most productive areas, however. Best catches were made in the cove off Cormorant Point. Some activity was also had at the Coast Guard Station. The Basket Area also produced, but high winds made substantial catches difficult.

Tony's Fishing Station reports on Saturday Norman Hamill and John Rapp of Queens had 90 flounder up to 2 lbs. in the Basket Area. Another family fished the west side of the bridge for 45 good flounder. This was on worms, clams and mussels and stirred up bottom. Wayne Johnson on his boat Drifter hit the macks on Sunday and took over 200 lbs., fishing southeast of the inlet in 90 ft. of water.

Larry at **L&M Marine** said that the flounder fishing has been a tough pick due to the windy weather, but those fish being taken are very big and range up to 3 lbs. High winds have made it difficult to hold bottom and have hurt the chumming. The fish are spread all over the bay with no particular hotspot.

Ramona Seifert of the **Silly Lily Fishing Station** said that the flounder fishing improved over the weekend with the best catches coming from behind the Coast Guard Station; but the winds that have been coming up in the afternoon have been driving the boats back to the dock early. The fish are all fat and average 1 to 1½ lbs. Chumming with mussels is necessary, and the fish are hitting bloodworms, sandworms and red-dyed clams equally well.

Donald Goldberg, Joe Nowaski and sons Joe and John, with 85 keeper flounder up to 2 lbs., taken on bloodworms and mussel chum at buoy 54. Photo courtesy of L&M Marine in East Moriches.

MORICHES BAY

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** reports that he and Stan Saneski, on Saturday caught 187 mackerel weighing a total of 304 lbs. They fished from 40-90 ft. of water with the best catch being in a 40 minute period at the 80 foot line, southeast of the head buoy. On Sunday, Fred Miguone and Ken Montgomery, both of Great Gun Anglers, had 70 macks in two hours of fishing around the head buoy in 60-65 ft. of water. The winds were a large sized problem both days. On Saturday, in the east cut of the inlet, four fluke were picked up. This was heard by Bill over the radio and he had no further details. Sunday saw Jim Green and Ed Shulton bring back 8 keeper fluke. Joe O'Brien of East Moriches won their flounder derby with a 2 lb. 1 oz. flattie, winning a custom bay rod and Penn reel.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Stiriz Fishing Station** reports buoys 9 and 10 are the hottest spots this past week for flounder on worms and mussels, but stirring up the bottom is a MUST. The action has been spotty, but the sizes are big with the two and three hook flounder rig working better than spreaders. The first fluke from his station was taken at Moriches Inlet on a clam bait on a flounder hook. This doormat ran 7 lbs. 2 oz. and was taken on Sunday morning. Mackerel in 80-90 ft. of water, 180 degrees out of Moriches Inlet. Private boats have been taking anywhere from 80 to 190 mackerel on diamond jigs and mackerel trees.

Capt. Fred of the charter boat **Sea Mist** called to tell us that he is now in the water and has some open mackerel dates for those interested. See ad for details.

SAYVILLE

Young's Fishing Station reports that large schools of weakfish have been reported between West Island and Heckscher via the gillnetters, but no hook and line catches have been heard of as yet. Weaks have been seen on the recorders and they will probably start hitting bait

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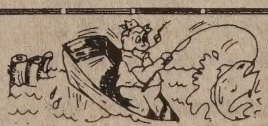

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Sinker Bouncing: KINGFISH

(Continued from page 12.)

fisherman isn't prepared for it. However, the bend of these preferred hooks seem to assure a hooked fish even when the fisherman is slow in reacting.

Some fishermen feel a 1/0 hook is too large and they use a four or even a number six, but I've never had trouble with the larger hook. I leave the choice to you.

Kings are bottom feeders—at least that's where you'll find them. I dislike making a general statement like this because I recall doing so in a kingfish article several years ago, and damned if I didn't catch a batch of kings off bottom the following summer while snapper fishing. It was the only time it happened; so I wouldn't count too much on it happening again.

When kings are feeding, it is not unusual to catch double-headers; therefore, if you make sure both hooks are spread out in plain view on bottom, you'll be ahead of the game.

Doing this is no problem if you use a medium-sized, three-way swivel tied in about two inches above the sinker. You can also tie your hooks directly to the main line by forming a one-inch loop with a double-overhand knot. To get those two hooks in full view of the fish, it is best if you use the tandem-tie method. This is easily accomplished by folding the snell of one hook at its middle, then placing the fold through the knotted loop of the second hook, and placing this second hook through the fold, drawing up tightly, and securing with a common overhand knot.

You can also do away with the three-way swivel and loop if you use a sinker snap at the end of the main line and place sinker and hooks together. This is a good method to use when casting on a windy day.

Kingfish are fussy when it comes to food. Whatever bait you decide to use, make sure it is fresh: the fresher, the better. Avoid frozen baits whenever possible. If you must use these, don't allow the container to sit in the sun. You'll find frozen baits produce best when first thawed. After that, their fish-catching ability goes rapidly downhill.

Sand and bloodworms, squid, shrimp, hard, soft, and skimmer clam, and small fresh spearing are good baits. If I had to choose, I would use sand worms. But whatever bait you use, don't make the mistake of using small pieces. When using worm, make sure a small piece trails from the hook. This is what attracts kingfish. Make sure that the point of the hook is exposed; this ensures instant hooking.

As noted before, let's hope kingfish will be around in sufficient numbers this summer. I hope too, that if you plan on trying them for the first time, you will of course be successful. If you are, you'll know immediately why I still fondly recall that first one of so many years ago.

Kingfish are hard to beat: on the hook, or in the frying pan. Whoever named this fish, knew exactly what he was doing.

SurfSide: STRIPER SUBSTITUTE

(Continued from page 14.)

in your local tackle store. It is simply a swivel type piece of hardware to which a sinker is attached; this is allowed to slide freely in your line above the snap. A leadered hook is connected to this snap, which also acts as a stop to prevent the sinker from sliding off the end on the line. The reasoning behind this rig is to permit the fish to pick up the bait without feeling the weight of the sinker.

Many queries to surf fishermen since then have brought the reply that ling caught from the surf is unusual. Ensuing newspaper reports stated that ling and whiting were being taken in the Jones Beach surf at this time; so this fishing was more widespread than we believed.

If the game fish are conspicuous by their absence this spring, and the cost of worms threaten to put you in the poor house, give this added species of the surf a try. While their fighting ability leaves much to be desired, their edibility will help offset this deficiency.

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and lures by the weekend if the weather comes to its senses. Clay Hardman in three flounder trips this past week had three catches of over 40 good flounder taken between Cherry Grove, and Barrett Beach, roughly one mile off Barrett Beach. This was on worms and skimmer baits plus churning up the bottom with a pole. Bob Davidson had 35 flounders on Tuesday, fishing off Barrett Beach with worms and skimmers and stirring the bottom. Five-year-old Jamie O'Neil got his first eel of the season fishing off the bulkhead in Sayville.

WEST SAYVILLE

Jim at **South Bay Fishing Station** reports that John Henderson kept 35 flounder that touched the 2 lb. mark on Saturday fishing with mussels and bloodworm and mussel chum at buoys 4 and 5, Heckscher. 20 to 30 flounder per boat has been typical this past week, with lots of mussel chumming. Buoys 4 and 5 at Heckscher and buoy 17 at Fire Island Inlet have been producing flounders for all their skiffs.

BAY SHORE

Smokey's Bait and Tackle tells of flounder in Bay Shore channel, behind the hospital, Fair Harbor, and at the Sore Thumb. Still a decent amount of flounder out there and fish have been running this past week from 1¼ to 3 lbs., on mussels, worms and clam on all moving tides. Stirring the bottom or heavy chumming is a must. Some sundials have been caught, which are the forerunners of fluke and since the Bay is loaded with sand eels, fluke should be in right behind them. Two big sea bass were caught in the Bay off Ocean Beach during the week, which is further indication that our waters are warming up nicely. This was on clam on a flounder rig. Forty weakfish were taken on Saturday on the outside, east of the inlet tight on the beach on squid strips drifted over the bottom. Fish ran from 6 to 11 lbs. Mackerel in 60-65 ft. of water, southeast of Jones Tower, Wednesday through Sunday on diamond jigs and mackerel trees. These good catches were made by the Captree headboat, **Speedy VI**.

Capt. Walter of the **Casey Lee** tells us that a netter had 70 lbs. of mackerel and 16 boxes were taken by another netter on Wednesday. The flounder action continued good all week for the boat, except for Thursday when the 40-50 mph winds beat everybody to their knees. Monday through Friday's average was 10 to 20 flounder per man and the weekend's average was 5 to 15 flounder per man. Best area was Bay Shore's buoy 2 and West Channel. The Casey Lee is starting afternoon weakfish trips, this Thursday, May 4 at 4 PM, and these will be a daily occurrence. A few fluke have been taken on worms by flounder fishermen in the inlet and Walter will probably be starting to fluke next week. Watch ad.

CAPTREE

Capt. Marty of the **Jib Fleet** reports flounder action was fair all week, but poor Thursday due to strong wind and rain. On Friday, Jerry Ginsberg and Dr. Stan Wernick took the pool with a 2 lb. 1 oz. flounder while the good Doctor was high hook with 26 flounder. The weekend dropped off some, but still on Saturday 130 flounder were taken by noontime. Sunday's pool went to J. D'Auria of East Meadow with a 2 lb. 6 oz. flounder. Weaks are working into the bay, so watch the Jib ad for their afternoon weakfish trips.

Capt. Neil of the **Lady Ann** reports flounder was very good since Wednesday, with Wednesday's charter bagging over 300 of the flatties. Over 300 fish were caught Saturday and over 200 for Sunday's small charter. Best areas have been West Channel and the Sore Thumb on clam, then worms, with mussel chum.

The Captree Queen reports better flounder catches earlier in the week, since the tail end of the week was beset by strong winds and high tides. Five to eight fish per man was the case on the weekend, while 10 to 14 fish was the number during the early part of the week. The boat fished Dickerson's Channel, the Bay Shore and Heckscher flats and the Sore Thumb.

The Speedy VI reports good mackerel fishing most of the week and fish were taken locally, roughly 20 minutes past the Fire Island jetty.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** reported that the flounder fishing remained very good all week. Wednesday was the best day, with over 1000 flounder bagged with many fishermen having between 60 and 80 fish each. Friday was also a good day at the Sore Thumb with 12 anglers taking 40 to 50 fish of mixed sizes each. Saturday morning's trip was good, but it was a slow pick in the afternoon with a lot of small fish being taken. The captain said that he's seeing a few small blackfish, fluke and tommy cod in the catches, but rod and reel catches of weakfish are still only rumors. The boat is now sailing 3:30 weekday afternoons for flounder.

BABYLON

Augie's Bait and Tackle tells us that the flounder action has been good this past week, though the fish seem smaller than before. They are still running from 3/4 to 1¼ lbs. and that there are plenty around. Best this past week has been inside the Sore Thumb, Bay Shore Channel and flats and also the Babylon flats. Bigger fish have been taken in shallower water. Some big fluke have started to take hold, as evidenced by a 5¼ lb. fluke which Ski weighed in this week. Four or five private boats pulled a few mackerel around the Whistler over the weekend, but nothing to set the world on fire. No weakfish on hook and line as yet, but 30's and 40's by gillnetters set around the pound nets and west. A lot of guys are trying for weakfish, however. Loads of sand eels over and it looks like it's going to be a big fluke year.

Babylon Fishing Station reports good flounder activity south of the hospital in 4-5 ft. of water to the tune of 20 to 35 fish per boat between 3/4 and 1¼ lbs., mostly on bloodworms and clam on the hook and mussel chum. Heckscher has been off this week. The west side of the Moses Bridge has produced best and also the cove at the Sore Thumb was good this week for larger boats. Gary Benham had 30 flounder there up to 1½ lbs. To sum up, flounders are still strong.

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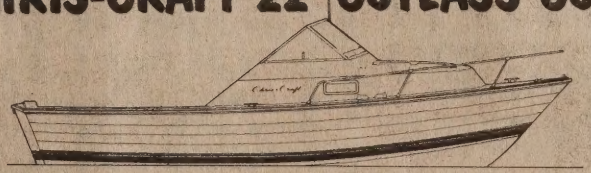

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LINDENHURST

Charlie's Bait and Tackle tells us flounders are beginning to taper off a bit, but the best action has been at the Sore Thumb, Oak Beach, Oak Beach Lead. The fish seem to be moving toward the inlet now. A few weakfish at Heckscher's buoy 4 on salty dogs and drifted squid, says John. Some mackerel being caught from 100 to 120 ft. of water due south of the inlet.

COPIAGUE

Bait and Tackle Unlimited reports flounder activity has slackened a bit in both size and quantity , but the best catches have been made this past week in the State Channel between East Fox Creek and the Babylon cut. Some weakfish have been picked up off Gilgo on salty dogs and on sand worms.

Jonas Bait and Tackle tells us that one customer who has to remain unidentified make three morning weakfish trips and took 15 weaks on outgoing tide this past week on white shrimp lures. The area of the catch was either the Babylon flats or the Heckscher flats. Flounders are holding up to the tune of 10 to 20 per angler, with the best areas being the Captree Bridge area, behind the hospital and the Amityville Cut at the State Channel. 37 flounder up to 2 lbs., were taken on Sunday at the flats behind the hospital by one customer on clam and stirring up the bottom. Blackfish are being taken at the Kismet Reef and Jonas says he will have fiddler crabs by the weekend.

SEAFORD

Capt. Eddie's Fishing Stationreports that the strong winds of the week put the numbers of flounder caught down, but sizes remained good. A 2¼ pounder was the big fish of the week. A lot ran 1½ to 1¾ lbs. Most were caught in Massqapequa Cove. If you are fishing Squaw Island, use great caution as almost all of the ch channel markers are missing.

Eddie at **Shore Isle Marina** tells us that 11 boats went out Sunday participating in his flounder tournament. High hook was Jim Miller with 23 flounder, none under a pound. Largest fish went 1 lb. 10 oz. Eddie also warns about the missing channel markers at Squaw. Flounder catches were on mussels and sand worms, heavy on mussel chum. Fred Maliszewski had a 1 lb. 11 oz. flounder. Custom rods were awarded in the tournament and all boats had fish. Also, blacks at the second wantagh.

MERRICK

Merrick Marine Supply in Bellmore tells us that Patricia Smith, related by marriage to the East Bay Anglers, outfished her husband on Sunday bagging a 2 lb. 1 oz. flounder in Merrick Bay. In general, the flounder action this past week has been

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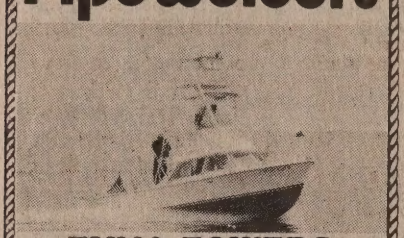

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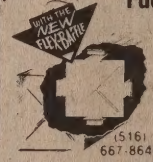

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spotty with fair to good catches being made along with some smaller catches. Bloodworms and mussels on the hook still present your best shot, but keep the chum working.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Marina reports a poor flounder weekend due to poor sea conditions for his skiffs, but they did manage to pick some fish in Baldwin Bay and Cinder Creek. A few macks were jigged in the Cholera area.

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** reports some good catches despite the high winds of this past week. On Sunday, two anglers in one of the skiffs had 65 good flounder in the early morning hours before the wind started up, on worms and mussel and corn chum. Fish ran from ½ to 1¾ lbs. Some skiffs had 10, some 25, some in the 40s and some had just a few fish. Merrick Point, Broad Creek and the third pole off Nick's Dock were good producing spots this past week. Best Action is in the morning, despite the tidal situation. You had to work for your fish this week.

WEST END
SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
MACKEREL

FREEPORT

Capt. Bill of the **Ivory Queen** reported a slow pick in 70 ft. of water on Saturday on the mackerel for a total of 25 Bostons in the box at the end of the day. This was a decent catch considering what was out there and the conditions. Bill says that he has some mackerel dates still open, so call him now.

Charter Boat **Sea Hawk** called to tell us that on Friday, Lou Mazzarella and group fished Cinder Creek, which was very good until noon on incoming, but that the ebb was a disaster. The flood managed to fill a 5 gallon bucket of flounder. Saturday's charter for Al Porter and party of the Great Neck P.O., eked out a fair catch in the high winds. Cinder Creek, Garrett's Lead and the mouth of Woodcleft Canal were fished. This was all worms and clams and mussel chum. Capt. Denis asked us to tell you that he still has some open weekend dates for mackerel.

Capt. Richie of the **StarStream II** reports an excellent week of fishing. Catches better than a full bag of mackerel per person were taken fishing from Manasquan Ridge to Klondike. On Saturday, 30 to 80 big Boston mackerel were taken per person and on Sunday catches ran from 25 fish to a full bag. The weekend fishing was done at Klondike and the mackerel ranged from 1¼ to 3 lbs.

The Aloma II reports that on Saturday the fishing was fair right outside Jones Inlet. Nice catches averaging one-half

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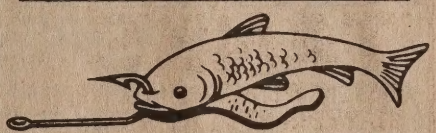

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The Koons and Gruber party with their catch of 70 flatties up to 2 lbs. taken fishing Fundy Bridge with worms, clams and mussel chum. Photo courtesy of Anthony's Fishing Station.

bushel per person were taken. On Sunday, a school of mackerel were found, but the fish were not feeding and catches were low. Capt. Paul says that there are plenty of mackerel in the area and he can see nothing but improvement from here.

The Capt. Hall reports the fishing has been on and off. On Saturday, high hook took 21 flounder up to 2 lbs. Some blackfish and ling were mixed in with the day's catch.

The Capt. Lou II reports that the boat had good fishing during last week, but it slowed on the weekend. The fishing is being done off the Coast Guard Station in Reynolds Channel where average catches of 12 to 15 fish per person are being taken. On Saturday, high hook had 20 fish and on Sunday, a high of 15 fish. The pool fish on Sunday ran up to 2¾ lbs. Couple of blackfish were mixed in with the catches and the first fluke was also taken.

The Bluefin Fleet reports that Charlie Adams, Captaining the Blue Fin said that the Double T Fishing Club of Elmont, fished aboard the boat over the weekend and caught 122 keeper flounder. Most of the fish were taken in the morning and the pool was taken by Angelo Dipiero with a 1 lb. 9 oz. flattie. Steve Kearney was high hook and the second biggest fish was taken by Andy Young, which weighed 1 lb. 7 oz. The fish were taken on dyed clams and worms in the area of Reynolds Channel and Garrett's Lead.

Mike on the charter boat **Apus** called to say that on Saturday his charter of James Soriano and party bagged 53 flounder from 3/4 to 2 lbs., on clam and sand worms fishing Garrett's Lead, Cinder Creek and Fundy Creek, both moving tides.

Charter boat **Shalidon** called to tell us that on Sunday he ran to 60 ft. of water south of the tower and his charter of 4 men, two of whom were wiped out, managed to take 60 elusive mackerel and six whiting.

Freeport Boatmen's Association reports both flounder and mackerel action this week were just fair. On Sunday, the **Corsair** had 100 plus macks for 13 men, and the **Norsemen** had a couple of hundred macks for 27 men fishing in 60 to 80 ft. of water. They worked between Cholera and the Three Sisters. We have not seen the big schools yet. **Acme II** and **Atlantic** fished Reynolds Channel and Garretts Lead in the pole #19 area, for fair flounder catches Saturday.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports that the flounder fishing is holding up well. Over the weekend, catches of 40 to 50 flatties per boat were taken in Middle Bay, North Channel and Cinder Creek. The fish are mixed in size and are running from 3/4 lbs. up to 1½ lbs. One boat fished the Meadowbrook Bridge over the weekend and returned with 27 blackfish up to 5 lbs., taken on clams. On Saturday afternoon, some nice mackerel catches were taken

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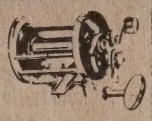

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sout.west of the Inlet in 75 ft. of water.

Scotty's Marina reports that flounder from 3/4 to 1½ lbs. are being taken in the Flats and in Middle Bay on worms, clams and mussels. Mackerel are being taken in 60 ft. of water south of the Inlet and whiting and ling are all over the area.

ISLAND PARK

Beckmann's Tackle reports that flounder fishing slowed a bit this past weekend. The hottest spot right now is the pier in Pt. Lookout where fish up to 1½ lbs. are taking worms, mussels and skimmers. The blackfishing is just getting started at the Meadowbrook Bridge where the fish are running 2 to 2½ lbs. Fluke are beginning to be picked up off Duck Point.

The Commodore reports that on Saturday high hook was Al Menderis with 34 flounder and the pool went to Emil Krietzaman with a 2 lb. 6 oz. flattie. 450 fish were taken on the boat and the fishing was done in Hog Channel, Duck Point and in Deb's Inlet at the top of the tide. On Sunday, the fishing slowed because of the winds, but some nice sized fish were taken. Frank Herskowitz took the pool with a 2 lb. 3 oz. flounder.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Henning's Fishing Station reports that on Sunday the flounder fishing was good in Reynolds Channel especially at the Cedarhurst Yacht Club. Three boats came into the station with over 70 nice size flounder. A few blackfish are being taken in the rocks at Far Rockaway. A few mackerel are also being taken in the area. One boat returned on Sunday with the first weakfish of the season. The fish weighed 5 lbs. and was taken near buoy 4 on worms.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle told us of nice sized flounder being taken at the north and south channel bridges on worms and mussels. These fish are running from 3/4 to 1¾ lbs. Bill Nagy took 3 blackfish up to 4 pounds on skimmer clams fishing the north channel bridge. Striped bass just over keeper size are being taken at the north channel bridge on bloodworms.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The Dorothy B reports that on Saturday, the boat fished north of the Manasquan Ridge and fair catches of mackerel were taken. Average catch was up to 20 fish per person. On Sunday, the boat experienced some fantastic whiting fishing. Catches averaged 40 whiting per person with some mackerel mixed in. The fishing was done at Augie's Lump.

Capt. Tom of the **Pilot II** reports that Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of last week showed some excellent blackfishing. The storm on Thursday made the fishing on Friday and Saturday tough. On Sunday, the blackfishing improved once again along the Jersey coast and at offshore wrecks. The average fish weighed 3 to 4 lbs., and the pool ran to 6 to 8 lbs. The fish are being taken on green crabs and the first five sea bass of the year were also taken.

The new **Elsie K III** reports that on Sunday some super whiting and mackerel fishing was had. The fish were big and plentiful and average catches ranged from 50 to 150 fish per person. The fishing was done south of Seabright and the captain reported that the schools are moving up towards the New York Bight/Long Island area.

Stella Maris Bait and Tackle reports lots of whiting and flounders being caught by boats going for them from the Sheepshead fleet and the blackfish are starting to show strong now.

The Claire Fleet reports fair fishing Saturday for flounder in the Huntington area on clams and worms. The Claire Fleet will have two flounder boats fishing the Sound as long as these fish are around.

On Saturday and Sunday evenings, Guy DeBlasio and his brother Bill went fishing on the Hudson River and totaled 8 stripers from 3 to 7 lbs. They also had a lot of channel catfish up to 5 lbs. There were rumors of a 35 lb. weighed in at **Croton Bait and Tackle.** Also heard of few more stripers caught off of Staten Island.

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STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports that flounder fishing has been excellent at piers 17 and 18. Catches averaged 20 to 50 fish per person and were taken on blood or sand worms with corn chum. Flounder can also be found in Great Kills Park and at the trademark in Princess Bay, but the fishing here is slower than at the piers. Bass are being taken off the beach at Great Kills Park. There is no blitz going but 8 to 15 fish are being taken everyday. The bass are averaging 3 to 5 lbs., and are taking sand worms.

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FLOUNDER

GREENPORT

Capt. George Porter's **Brand X** enjoyed good flounder catches on Saturday and Sunday. Sunday high hook was 40 flounder with a total weight of 78 lbs. Many fares had 20 to 30 fish and most of the action was on one drop at Hedges Banks in Gardiner's Bay. Fish were from 1¼ to 3½ lbs. Bait was mussels, clams and worm and the flounders were just gulping it down, says George. The boat is now switching over to big Gardiner's snowshoes which should really be dynamite fishing.

Capt. Richie Jensen on the **Wilheric** tells us the flounder catches have been

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very good all week long, with one fish going nearly 4 lbs. Catches have averaged 20 to 30 fish per man. Fish have been averaging 1½ to 2 lbs. and best areas have been Hedges Banks and Cherry Harbor. Richie says come on and fish now before the weaks arrive. The Wilheric is also swinging over to big Gardiner's snowshoes and it looks like this is going to be a banner year for these big flatfish. People should really give this port a shot, as they work some very fertile grounds.

A.P. White Bait Shop reports Hedges Banks, Cedar Island and the south side of Shelter Island, Buck Light and off the Oyster Shop have been producing good flounder up to 3 lbs., averaging out at 2 lbs., on worm, mussel and clam chum, on all moving tides.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt reported some good flounder fishing over the weekend in spite of the wind. Roger Pfeiffer and Peter Pfeiffer got 97 flounders fishing the mouth of West Neck Creek; all were good fish. Fred Bayer, Walt and Helen Rutkowski picked up 56 flats east of Ram's Head in open water. Finally, Tom and Frank Lavagata got 49 flats off the Windmill in East Marion. What mackerel are around were taken by buoy 8 east of the Greenport breakwater. As of this report, the macks have yet to show in force.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports that flounder running up to 3 lbs. have been taken at Nassau Point—Buoy 22, with sand worms and mussels. Joe DelTondi and Marty Tonbaro fished Nassau Point with mussels and took 53 nice flounder. Chumming was the key to success. A couple of blackfish have been taken from the Nassau Point area, with the largest running up to 7½ lbs. These fish are being taken while flounder fishing with mussels. A few mackerel have come in with catches of flounder.

JAMESPORT

Warren's Tackle Center reported some good flounder fishing. The water is warm enough now where the fish are moving around day to day. There's mackerel in the Sound. Last week schools were observed going by the platform of Northville. Some weaks are in the bay, but nobody is catching any. The store will give away a rod and reel for the largest weakfish caught in the month of May. Call for more details.

Gasper Teri, Gasper Teri, Jr., and Nat Costanza with 62 flounder up to 2 lbs., taken on worms and mussels between Nassau Point and the sand slide. Photo courtesy of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.

NOYAC

Helen at **Noyac Marina** reports mackerel at buoy 17 in the rips off Jessup's. Flounders have been caught by regular Toni Outerial of Brooklyn to the tune of two buckets full on Saturday fishing east of Jessup's on red clam and mussel chum. Helen says all boats had flounder.

Speck's Bait and Tackle reports flounder still good on sandworms and mussels, best areas being the Peconics at Mill Creek and the National Golf links at Bullhead. Both sides of the high have been producing best and fish are running a steady 1 to 1½ lb. size. No mackerel reports as yet. The wind has been a big problem. Mackerel in the gillnets along with bunker, but only one reported on a diamond jig cast from the Shinnecock Inlet stones.

EAST HAMPTON

John Gozoziewski of Astoria and George Cardel and son took 27 flounder between 2 and 2½ lbs. in the area of Three Mile Harbor and Gardiner's Bay. John took the biggest, with a 3 lb. 6 oz. flattie.

Bill at the **Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station** told us that the flounder fishing has been very good, but limited to the harbor and inside the channel amost all week because of the high winds. The fish inside are up to 2 lbs., with fish up to 3 lbs. being taken outside when weather permits. The fish are biting on both sides of the changes on skimmer clams with mussels for chum.

Ralph DeMaltaris and Al Smolski with 44 flounder up to 2¼ lbs., taken at the Windmill in East Marion on mussels and worms. Photo courtesy of Port of Egypt Fishing Station.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

ROCKY POINT

Rocky Point Fishing Stop reports that fishing has been an on and off thing in the area. Flounder can be found at Mt. Misery Shoals and at the mouth of Mt. Sinai Harbor when fishing conditions are good. A few small blackfish from 3 to 4 lbs., have been taken from Cedar Beach on sand worms. Mackerel are being taken in 60 to 75 ft. of water off Crane's Neck and at buoy 11 at Mt. Misery Shoals. As of yet, no large quantities are being caught.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station reports that winds this past week have slowed the fishing, but some nice catches did come in. On Saturday fishermen had a fair day fishing for flounder on the outside. On Sunday, the fishing was fair inside the harbor. Also on Sunday, three boats fished Buoy 11 with mackerel trees with diamond jigs and came in with sacks of mackerel.

PORT JEFFERSON

The Betty W reports flounders remain

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MAKO 1973 17' with 1970 Johnson 115 h.p. Bimini top and spray hood. Console and seat covers. $3500 OR Best Offer. I must sell boat this weekend. CALL: 516-487-2976 days, or 516-487-6806 Eves. Ask for Fred Ondris.

1972 CHRIS—CRAFT: Langer 24' Fiberglas 235 h.p. inboard engine. Boat in mint condition. Low hours. VHF radio & CB. Must be seen. $5900. Call after 3 PM. Tel: 516-957-1156.

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BERTRAM 25' OPEN S/F. 1965 with 1975 Twin 140's. Pompanette fighting chair, recording DF, VHF, & CB. Elect. compass. outriggers, bait wash down, 7 rodholders, custom tackle cabinet, full canvas, cushions. Exc. Condition. Asking $14,000. Eves. after 7 & Sats. & Suns: 516-665-1909.

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NEW CHANNELS now available for VHF ship-to-ship use. Avoid weekend air congestion using 69, 71 or 78. We stock crystals for most radios & often install while-you-wait, or supply within a few days. Small deposit required. Crystals $15 pair. Modest installation charge. Call Inez, any day, any time. 516-581-0194. HEINE MARINE ELECTRONICS, 250 Montauk Highway, Islip.

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POSITION WANTED: COMMERCIAL HOOK & LINE Fisherman with Captain's License seeks job as a Mate on Good Montauk Charter Boat. I specialize in bass, blue, inshore & shark. Ready to help with spring preparations. Please call Bob at: 212-894-1762.

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COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES
Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie Compasses. Expert installation and adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE. 516-757-7169.

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RETIRED MAN LOOKING FOR AVID FISHERMEN to share expenses on speedy 27' Sportfisherman, fishing whenever possible for whatever is in season. Bay Shore area. Call Freddy: 277-5181.

PECONIC WEAKFISHING

(Continued from page 23.)

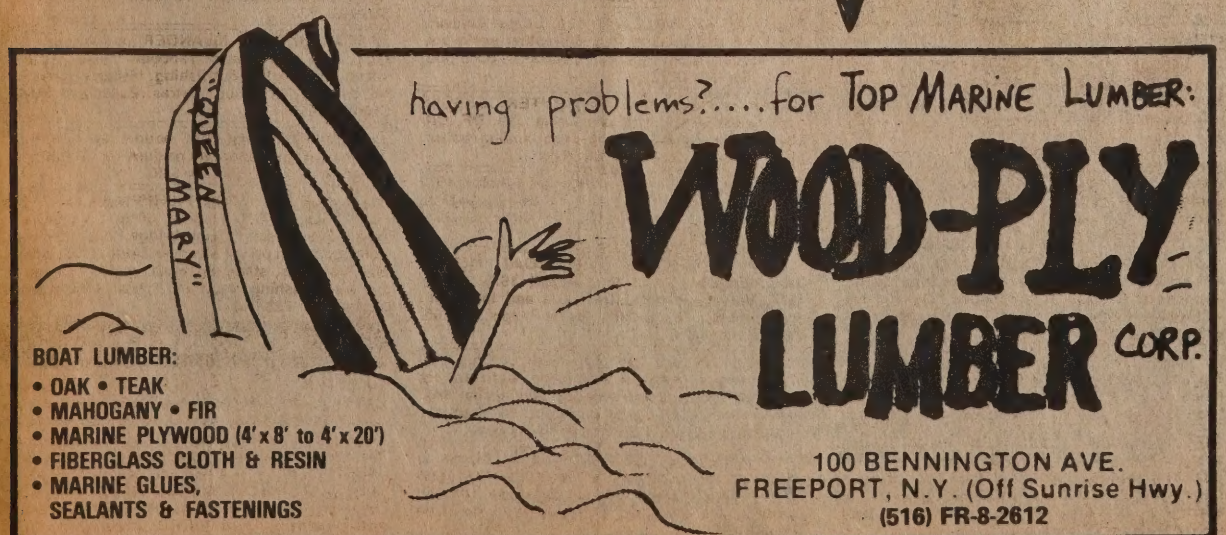
channel drops off and weakfish can often be found congregating here. They eat the various forms of marine life swept out by the ebbing tide.

In regards to the "how-to" aspects governing this beach, much of what was stated concerning Cow Neck may be applied here as well. The light tackle spin fisherman who has a penchant for casting with small artificials will also find this to be a productive area.

Both of these beaches are within the Township of Southampton. They may be reached via Route 27; the former by taking North Sea Road, and the latter by way of Sebonac Road.

Parking is available at the terminus of both roads and non-residents will not have to be concerned about restrictions until the Memorial Day weekend. By that time, the action is on a downward trend as the weakfish scatter throughout this bay, and therefore, it won't really matter.

Many of us are aware of the fact that weakfish virtually disappeared from our waters during the past two decades. A few years ago, New York State passed a law, requiring sport fishermen to release any weakfish less than twelve inches. This assures them of spawning at least once. By obeying this law, plus keeping a limited amount, perhaps we may continue to enjoy "Weakfishing in the Peconics," during the coming years. In the meantime, let us all be thankful for the return of this superb game fish.



$500 First Prize!

4th ANNUAL LONG ISLAND

SATURDAY, MAY 13th **WEAKFISH** SATURDAY, MAY 13th

TOURNAMENT

***RUNNER-UP PRIZES*—$10 Cash Prize for Largest Fish at each Weigh-In Station**

ENTRY FEE: $3.00 Per Angler Hrs.: 4 AM – 6 PM *Everyone is eligible!*

Tickets may be purchased in advance at these fishing stations or tackle shops:

C. Altenkirch, Hampton Bays
American Sportsman, Sayville
Augie's, Babylon
Babylon Fisbing Station, Babylon
Babylon Sports Center, Babylon
B & B Tackle, Center Moriches
Capitol Fishing Tackle, N.Y., N.Y.
Charlie's Bait & Tackle, Lindenhurst
Duke's Tackle Shop, Lindenhurst
Frank & Dick's, State Boat Channel
Great Outdoors, Patchogue
Hoppi's, Patchogue
Islip Marine, Islip
J & R Sports, Oakdale
Jimmie's Bait & Tackle, Patchogue
Lassens Hi-Way Fishing Station, E. Moriches
Niel's Bait Shop, Bay Shore Marina
Oakdale Trading Post, Oakdale
Port of Egypt, Southold
Sea Isle Sports Center, Freeport
Smokey's Bait & Tackle, Bay Shore
South Bay Fishing, West Sayville
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State Channel Marina, State Boat Channel
The Store, Oak Beach
White Water Marine, Oakdale
Youngs Fishing Station, Sayville

Get flyer where tickets are sold for details of contest, simple rules and location of weigh-in stations.

★ All weakfish weighed in will become property of Long Island Weakfish Contest Committee ★
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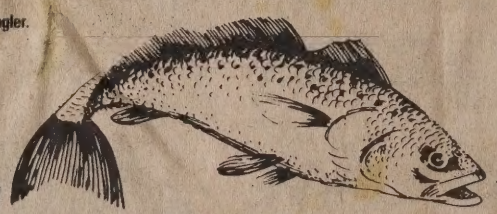
One prize per angler.



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good, as evidenced by Emil Augistine taking the pool with a three pounder on Wednesday. Mackerel catches are improving each day. On Saturday a charter from General Motors had a good split catch of flounder and macks. On Sunday, the Bent Rod Fishing Club of Flushing did a good job on the flounders despite high wind conditions. This is all in the local Port Jeff area on worms, clams and mussels. The boat is chartered for this Sunday, but will be sailing open on Saturday for flounders and blacks.

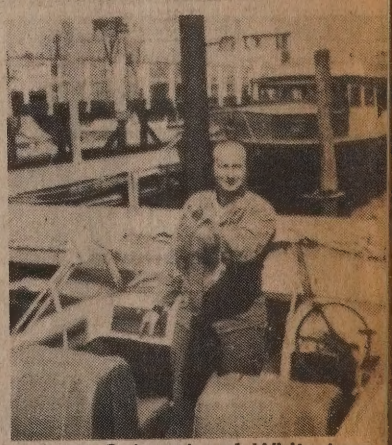
Caraftis Fishing Station reported some good flounders around in spite of the lousy wind. Anthony Taverna kept 90 one day on the weekend. Twenty of the fish were the finest kind of flats. The secret was use plenty of chum with double anchors to stay in one spot. The first macks were sighted. The main schools should be along any day.

KINGS PARK

Bob at **Mae's Way Fishing Station** reports excellent fishing on the rare occasions when the wind stops blowing. Flounder are still big and plentiful and big Boston mackerel are in. On Thurday Vinnie and Buzz of the Tiderunner had 35 mackerel and 50 flounder fishing at the Mansion and off Crane's Neck. On Saturday, Bill Stritzl and Wally Hettwer caught 36 big flounder off Callahan's on sand worms with mussel chum. Same time, same place, Sal and Sophie Brund returned with two big pails of flounder. On windy Sunday, the Floral Anglers Club took four rentals out, one boat found fish at Callahan's and got 35-40 flounder and returned wet and happy, the other three boats just got wet. On Sunday, Paul Bruno and family braved the wind and caught a big bushel of flounder.

NORTHPORT

Bowman's Sporting Goods reported Saturday good for flounders, but Sunday was stinko because of the wind. Jeff Schick, Tom Sollins and Ronnie Collastosti picked up 97 flats fishing off Ashorken Beach. The first macks were caught last week. One good spot is about three miles off the beach near the Lilco platform. Still some bass between the power plant and Crabmeadow Beach. Try dunking a worm on the incoming or just after she's turned to go back out.

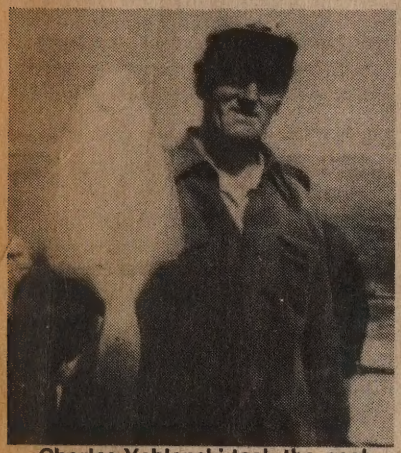


Leon Guitowsky of Whitestone caught this 3 lb. flounder fishing Sands Point. Also taken were 20 flounder in the one pound class which were weighed in at Jack's Bait and Tackle.

HUNTINGTON

The Ever Ready reports that on Saturday, John Maguire of Farmingdale took the pool with a 1½ lb. flounder. On Sunday, Glen Feldman of Dix Hills took the pool with a 1½ pounder also. High hook for the weekend was Mr. Lorber of Great Neck with 18 flounder.

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle reports that Dave Roberts and Bob Gordon took 35 flounders to 2½ lbs., fishing off Mackimah and 35 mackerel fishing in 60 ft. of water off Ashrocken. The flounder took mussel bait and the mackerel were taken on trees. Some small catches of mackerel are being taken between Target Rock and Sand City.



Charles Yablonski took the pool with this 2½ lb. flounder, caught aboard the City Island party boat "Ebb Tide."

NORTH SHORE WEST END
★ BEST BET ★ FLOUNDER

CITY ISLAND

Capt. Dom of the **Apache** called to say that he has been having good flounder fishing all week long, working the Bayville Shore line, Eaton's and Northport, mainly with sand worms. The boat will be staying with flounder.

The Ebb Tide reports that high winds put the fishing down a bit over the weekend, but Monday through Friday the numbers were better and all fares had fish. They had been working Oyster Bay and Lloyd's. Macks are in the Sound and the Ebb Tide and North Star will start mackerel fishing by the weekend.

Jack's Bait — Tackle reported some nice flounder fishing over the weekend in spite of the weather. Orchard Beach to Port Slocum were the locations. A couple blackfish were taken on sandworms. The City Island boats are possibly looking to go for macks this coming Thursday. No bass reports at all.

The Claire Fleet reported fair to good mackerel fishing on Saturday, working off Asbury Park near the Klondike Banks just around the beginning of the Mud Hole.

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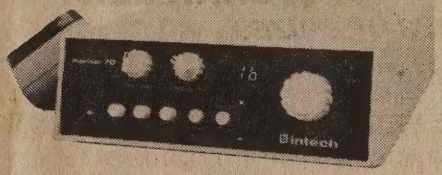

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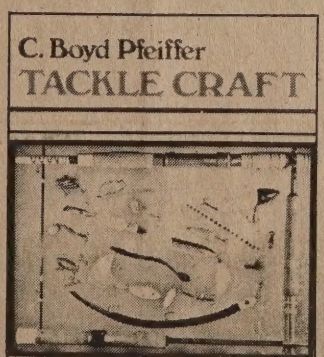
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